



OBITUARIES

Professional Religious Leaders
2020–2021

VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 2021

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KHOREN ARISIAN

(1932-2021)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Khoren Arisian, who died on Jan 14, 2021 at the age of 88.

Khoren was born on November 24, 1932 in Boston, MA to Khoren and Florence Arisian. His father's experiences as a survivor of the Armenian pogrom, greatly influenced Khoren's lifetime work for justice. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Tufts University, MA in 1954 with an Associate degree in History, following which he received a Certificate in Religion and Philosophy from Manchester College, Oxford University, England (1955). He earned his Bachelor of Divinity from Crane Theological School, Tufts University in 1957 and was a Merrill Fellow at the Harvard Divinity School (1966). In 1989, Starr King School for the Ministry, CA granted him an honorary doctorate degree.

Rev. Dr. Arisian was ordained on September 9, 1958 by the First Unitarian (now UU Society) of Iowa City, Coralville, IA where he carried out his ministry from 1958 to 1964. Prior to his ordination, he served the UU Society of Amherst, MA as a student minister (1956-1957). Following his ministry in Iowa, he served at the UU Church of Sarasota, FL (1964-1966). In 1979, he accepted a call from the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, MN and ministered for eighteen years. On June 1, 1997, the Minneapolis congregation conferred him the title of Minister Emeritus.

Within the UUA denomination, Rev. Dr. Arisian served as a member of the UU Denominational Grants Panel (1981-1984); and as a Chair of the UU Social Concerns Grants Panel (1984-1987). He was Coordinator for the UU Theological and Historical Traditions of the Meadville Lombard Theological School (August 1980), and Associate Faculty for Starr King School for the Ministry.

Throughout his career, Rev. Dr. Arisian was devoted to advancing religious humanism. He helped found the North American Committee for Humanism and the Humanist Institute (New York City), where he functioned as Associate Dean and sat on the Board of Governors. He became a



Leader of the Boston Ethical Society from 1966 to 1968 after which he served as a Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture (1968-1979). He was director and co-founder of the Ethical Culture School of Adult Education, NY, and an associate editor of *The Humanist* (1969-1977). In 2000, he returned to the NY Society for Ethical Culture, this time as Senior Leader. Upon his final retirement in 2005, he became Senior Leader Emeritus.

Rev. Dr. Arisian co-chaired the Humanist and Ethical Union Congress held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1970. He was a member of various organizations including: The Council on Foreign Relations, Minneapolis, MN; Minnesota Civil Liberties Union; The Citizens League of Minneapolis; and Chaplaincy Task Force for the New York Board of Corrections. In addition, he assisted in establishing the New York Society for Prison Reform Task Force, a social service and advocacy organization helping prisoners and their families successfully restructure their lives during and after incarceration. In the early 2000s, he created the New York Ethical Culture's Advocacy Forums, an outreach to the greater New York public, co-sponsored with The Nation, Demos, Amnesty International and the ACLU. The Forums offered huge audiences informative discussions from the likes of Al Gore, Paul Krugman, Cornel West, Toni Morrison, and many more.

Rev. Arisian's pulpit addresses were broadcasted over WQXR, the radio station of The New York Times. He had over 100 articles written on religious philosophy, humanism, and social ethics. Some of his writings are: "Unitarian Humanism," *Faith and Freedom* (Autumn 1963); "The Intellectual Evolution of Unitarian Universalism: A Critical Portrait," *Crane Review* (Fall 1963); "The Clown, Magnus, and Selma, Alabama," *Journal of the Liberal Ministry* (Fall 1965); "Autonomous Living in a Democracy," *UU World* (October 1, 1973); "Emerson: The Quest for Wholeness," *Religious Humanism* (Summer, 1988). Knopf published his forward-thinking book, *The New Wedding, Creating Your Own Marriage Ceremony* in 1973.

KHOREN ARISIAN

continued

Khoren enjoyed classical music, literature, films, fine dining, lively conversation, and loved a good laugh. He was well-travelled and returned repeatedly to Greece for his intellectual and spiritual rejuvenation.

Khoren is survived by his loving family: his wife Leigh McKay; his sons Christopher Arisian and Derek Arisian (Silvia Arisian); his stepdaughters Megan Elliott (Eddie Elliott) and Amy McDaid (Richie McDaid); his grandchildren Sofia, Serena, Veronica, GianLuca Arisian, Natasha and Aidan Arisian, Levi Elliott, and Finn McDaid; and his brother Rodney Arisian.

A virtual memorial service was held on April 8, 2021 5 pm EST. Please email INFO@ALLSOULSNYC.ORG to get the link.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing.

Notes of condolence may be written to Leigh McKay, 39 Clinton Street, Lambertville, NJ 08530.

ELLEN LOUISE BRANDENBURG

(1945-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Ellen L. Brandenburg, who died on September 4, 2020 at the age of 75.

Ellen Louise Boyd was the third child of Philip Gerald Boyd and Dorothea Ellen Young, born on February 10, 1945 in Washington, D.C. She was raised in the Chicago suburb of Wilmette, IL. After graduating from New Trier High School in 1963, Ellen entered Wheaton College, remaining there for two years. She transferred to Boston University in 1965 when she married George Brandenburg, a student at Harvard. Ellen graduated from Boston University in 1967.

After living for a time in Germany, and then in Menlo Park, CA, Ellen and George moved to Lexington, MA, where they lived for 32 years. By the time their first child was just entering school, around 1975, Ellen recalls that while she had attended a Congregational church as a child, as an adult she “had hardly entered a church.” She and George decided that the Unitarian Universalist church “could offer us the kind of religious fellowship we had come to realize we wanted for our family.”

When they began attending First Parish in Lexington, Ellen and George encountered, and were then pulled into, a leadership vacuum. Ellen quickly found herself chairing the Religious Education Committee, and then attending the RE week on Star Island in the Isles of Shoals in New Hampshire. She loved the experience so much that she brought her family—George, Peter, and Anna—back to the island. Spending a week on Star Island each year became a cherished family tradition.

Her first year at Star Island also firmed Ellen’s resolve to remain part of the UU religious education experience. She became a leader in Star Island’s RE Week and was part of its executive staff for five years. In the Lexington congregation, Ellen was invited to assist the Director of Religious Education—and then, in 1978, she moved into the DRE position.



While DRE, Ellen developed the goal of including children more fully in the wider congregation, in particular by creating an all-congregation worship opening with words of welcome, an opening hymn, a Unison Affirmation (which the congregation still uses today), a brief story or presentation, and a musical exit for the children and youth to their classes. The experiment was successful, and some of the adults were surprised and pleased by how much they enjoyed the story as an insight into the service topic.

All of these leadership experiences satisfied Ellen’s growing commitment to Unitarian Universalism, as well as to helping others enrich their lives in the process of liberal religious education. They also led her to the UUA’s Independent Study Program, which was designed to prepare candidates for Certification as a DRE. Ellen took on additional course requirements to qualify as a Minister of Religious Education. Not only did Ellen continue to serve the Lexington church throughout the entire period of her MRE education, but during a period in which the Lexington congregation had no minister, she was also recognized for having played a “vital role” in keeping the church alive and well.

Ellen completed her comprehensive exam and was ordained by First Parish Lexington on October 17, 1982. Weeks later, she made the difficult decision not to ask to be considered for that congregation’s called Minister of Religious Education position. Instead, she served as Interim Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead (1983-1984).

By this time, Rev. Brandenburg’s service and ministry were expanding—and Ellen brought her strength of character, her caring, her ability to focus, and her wide-ranging skills into every setting she served. She served on the General Assembly Planning Committee from 1983 to 1985, and in 1984 was hired as the Acting Consultant on Youth Programs—a position that shifted, within a couple of years, to that of Youth Programs Director.

In 1989, Rev. Brandenburg entered the longest role of her career—and perhaps the one through which she affected

ELLEN LOUISE BRANDENBURG

continued

the most people—as the UUA’s Director of Ministerial Education. This new role drew upon even more of her skills. She had the ability to deliver critical feedback to the ministerial students she worked with in a manner that was graceful and personable. Sometimes she had to give the very bad news to a person that they were not suited for ministry, but she could do this with empathy and concern that upheld the worth and dignity of the candidate. In teaching her colleagues how to be clear yet caring, Ellen modeled that important truth-telling part of ministry.

Rev. Brandenburg moved on from this role in 2002, when she served a final interim ministry in Keene, NH. During that year, she demonstrated the same caring spirit, diplomatic nature, and deft handling of sensitive issues that characterized her overall ministry.

Two events in her personal life interrupted Ellen’s formal ministry: a cancer diagnosis led to surgery and recovery, and her husband’s career took Ellen and George to Geneva, Switzerland, where George worked on the CERN Large Hadron Collider. The couple lived in the French foothills for two years, where every day Ellen would walk up the mountain, and walk a little further each day.

In 2006, Ellen and George moved to Salem, MA. Ellen began volunteering at the Peabody Essex Museum, and both became active members at First Church Unitarian Universalist. They continued to travel, for several years enjoying flying to favorite locations in their plane, which George piloted, until they found a new love in sailing together. The couple maintained their strong connection to Star Island, attending the International Affairs Conference every summer. Ellen continued her docent work at PEM, made wonderful new friends, and became involved in numerous organizations, including the UU Retired Ministers Association, Voices Against Injustice, two book clubs, a Dream Group, and a dinner club.

After George died following a short illness in 2013, Ellen’s gracious spirit and sparkling smile kept her longtime friendships close and won her an ever-expanding circle of new friends. In 2014, Ellen was overjoyed to become a grandmother, “Gigi” to Ivy, who inherited her dimples. Anna and Ivy lived next door to Ellen, and they all ate dinner together on most nights.

Ellen once again went through cancer treatment in 2018

and 2019 and learned of a recurrence in March 2020. The following months became an intense time in the country for many reasons, including the upcoming election—news that Ellen followed closely. Simultaneously, her personal experience became deeply powerful and bittersweet. Though her friends and extended family couldn’t visit her, Ellen faced her final illness with courage and acceptance, helped by her devoted and beloved close family, and died surrounded by love and admiration.

Rev. Brandenburg was blessed with a lively intellect and an avid curiosity about the world and its people. She had the ability to light up a room with her presence. Her friends and family will always remember her keen ability to listen closely, her loving nature, her generosity, her sense of humor, her courage, her wonderful cooking, and her adventurousness.

A small memorial service was held for family and close friends at a park on September 11, 2020. Her ashes were mixed with George’s and scattered in the ocean. Their family hopes to hold a larger memorial service in the future.

Ellen is survived by her older siblings Peter Boyd, Mary Davis, and stepsister Sue Oates. She also leaves her daughter Anna and granddaughter Ivy Brandenburg, her son Peter Brandenburg, and his wife Krisztina Holly. She also leaves behind a wide circle of loving and beloved family members, friends, and colleagues all over the country, and the world.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ellen’s name to:

- **First Church in Salem Community Relief Fund**, 316 Essex Street, Salem MA, 01970 (on the online contribution form, select “General Fund,” and include Ellen’s name in the note field).
- **Star Island Corporation**, Morton-Benedict House, 30 Middle Street Portsmouth, NH 03801.
- **Care Dimensions Hospice**, 75 Sylvan Street, Suite B-102, Danvers, MA 01923.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Anna Brandenburg, 95 Essex St. #1, Salem MA 01970 or annabrande@icloud.com. Alternatively, you may leave a note for Ellen’s family to read on her CaringBridge page:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ellenbrandenburg>

CARL V. BRETZ

(1925-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Carl Victor Bretz who died on October 4, 2020 at the age of 94.

Carl was born on December 6, 1925 in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. He was the only child of John H. and Miriam M. Bretz. Carl graduated from Marysville (PA) High School in 1943 and was drafted into the Army at the height of World War II. He proudly served in the US Army Corp. of Engineers from February 1944 until April 1946. His brigade was one of the earliest of US troops to arrive in Nagasaki after Japan's surrender.

Carl was raised in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. He attended Albright College and The Evangelical School of Theology—both in Reading, PA—earning, respectively, a B.S. in 1949 and a B.D. (Master of Divinity Degree) in 1952. While attending seminary, from 1949 to 1952, Carl served a pastorate of five small rural churches in Warrensville, PA. He was ordained in Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church on May 3, 1952.

Rev. Bretz moved to a small parish in East Wareham, MA, while attending Boston University School of Theology, from which he graduated in 1954 with a Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.).

In January 1954, Rev. Bretz began serving as a Protestant chaplain in the NH State Mental Hospital. Within months of moving to New Hampshire, Carl began attending services at the Concord Unitarian Church. He also began studying Unitarian history and writings, and meeting with the state's liberal ministerial group. In 1955, he applied for admission to the Fellowship of Unitarian Ministers. Rev. Bretz was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry in Concord, NH on April 22, 1956.

Rev. Bretz continued to work as a Chaplain in Mental Hospitals in Concord, NH, which extended to serve as a training chaplain for ministers around the state. In 1959,



Rev. Bretz accepted the chaplain position at the Mental Health Institute of Mt. Pleasant, IA. Among his accomplishments there was the 1962 Christmas program that he coordinated, with eighty patients taking roles in the cast and chorus. He was also the co-founder and director of the Minister and Mental Health Program for parish ministers, sponsored by the Mental Health Institute and Iowa Wesleyan College.

In 1964, Rev. Bretz's ministry shifted from chaplaincy to the parish. He was called to the First Congregational Unitarian Church in Harvard, MA (now First UU Church of Harvard), where he served until 1972. While serving as a parish minister, he put his role as a parent before his role as a minister, investing time, attention, and care in his children in a way that would have been at odds with the norm for fathers, especially those in public roles.

Rev. Bretz's community activities include serving as President of the Greater Concord Mental Health Association; chair of the steering committee of the New Hampshire Mental Health Association; Vice President and then President of the Harlan School PTA in Mt. Pleasant; and Treasurer of the Board of the MHI (Mt. Pleasant) Credit Union.

In 1972, Rev. Bretz moved to Tuscaloosa, AL to serve as Director of Transitional Services at Bryce Hospital. His work was not only pastoral but also institutional, as he advocated for and negotiated improved conditions for patients.

Rev. Bretz became active in the lay-led UU Fellowship in that city (now the UU Congregation of Tuscaloosa), including serving as president of the Board. With his leadership, the declining Fellowship began to grow once again.

In December 1984, Rev. Bretz retired from the Alabama Dept. of Mental Health, and in 1985 the congregation called Rev. Bretz as their half-time minister. He served them in a ministerial capacity for four years, and one of his outreach activities, Meals on Wheels, continues to this day. Rev. Bretz retired from the congregation in 1989. The Congregation granted him Minister Emeritus status in February of 1994.

CARL V. BRETZ

continued

That same year, Carl moved to Oak Ridge, TN. As an avid weaver, he joined the Weaving Group at the Appalachian Arts Center in Norris, TN and remained a regular participant until March of this year. He also became involved as a member of Oak Ridge UU Church. In that role, his thoughtful, calm presence helped the congregation find its way through a conflict to more health.

Throughout his adult life, Carl loved farming on his land, and putting his “handy” skills to use. His family remembers him holding particular affection for the chickens he raised. Carl always taught his children to work hard and to reach toward what they wanted. He valued higher education and he was an institutionalist, keenly able to take the long view, who remained curious and supportive of Unitarian Universalism.

Carl is predeceased by his first wife and the mother of his children, Janice Miller Bretz-Howe, and his last wife Rosemary Burns. Both Carl and Rosemary were trusted leaders at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, promoting small group ministry and religious education.

Carl is survived by his three children Stephanie Cox (Craig) of Ramah, NM, Jonathan Bretz (Linda) of Maynard, MA, and Rima Michaud (Eric) of Eustis, FL; and by his grandchildren: Molly Panos McDonald (Dan), Philip Panos Jr, Jamieson Bretz (Elizabeth), Barbara Michaud Bowers (Demetrius). He was predeceased by his granddaughter Rita Michaud. Carl leaves eleven great-grand-children: Ayden and Mackenzie McDonald; Kennedy Panos; Jackson and Oliver Bretz; Allison, Evan and Lyla Bowers; Erin Michaud; and Kaiden and Desmond Hayes.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Interment will be in the ORUUC Memorial Garden. Please remember Carl by the special, kind, and thoughtful ways he impacted others.

Memorial gifts may be made to the **Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (ORUUC)** for the Rosemary M. Burns Memorial Endowment Fund (by check: 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN).

WILLIAM E. DAVID

(1925-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. William “Bill” E. David, who died on September 5, 2019, at the age of 94.

Bill was born on February 8, 1925 in Houston, TX to Edward and Anna Lou David. He served as an intelligence officer (May 1942–December 1945) for the Flying Tigers Airforce Unit in China during World War II, following which he received his Bachelor of Arts in History (1949), and Master of Arts in History and Political Science (1950), both from Baylor University, TX. In 1954, he graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, KY and worked as a chaplain at the V.A. Hospital, Nashville, TN (1954-1958). Later in 1958, Bill earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy and Religion from Vanderbilt University, TN. After his Ph.D., Bill was drawn to being fluent in Spanish; he and his first wife Lena David, started their intense Spanish language studies and missionary training work in Costa Rica for a year before traveling as missionaries to Argentina.

Rev. Dr. David was ordained on September 1, 1951 and granted preliminary fellowship in 1973. He served his parish ministry at the Clayton UU Memorial Church, Newberry, SC (1971-1985); and the Canon UU Church, GA (1971-1986) until his retirement on September 19, 1989.

Rev. Dr. David’s denominational activities included serving the Mid-South District Board and conducting workshops at the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute on the campus of Radford University, VA. He was a member of the UU Fellowship of Athens, GA for almost fifty years and served as guest speaker for several different UU Fellowships in the Southeast. Bill’s first wife Lena played a profound and pivotal role in the churches that he pastored. She was a virtuoso in piano and organ and led all the choral and musical activities that congregations loved.

Before his ministerial calling, Bill served as professor of Religion and Philosophy for several years. In 1962 after returning from Argentina, he accepted a position as a Professor of Religion at The Christian College of Georgia. Soon after, he served as Chair of the Department of Religion at the University of Georgia (UGA) and taught Religion and Philosophy. He retired from



the UGA at the age of 62, and then worked as Patient Representative Advocate for Athens Regional Medical Center for over 10 years. He also was a Spanish translator there. Subsequently, he became Chaplain for the Angel Medical Center in Franklin, NC for several years. He started the First Unity Church in Athens and launched the first Course in Miracles study group. He always had various speaking engagements, including at Piedmont College. In his spare time, Bill enjoyed nature, hiking mountain trails, and traveling across the world. He loved being with friends and family and was an avid reader.

David’s son Drew offered the following beautiful remembrance of his father:

“He was fondly known as simply “Bill”, a people person, who was a compassionate humanitarian that was warm and affectionate with his “hugs”. A “peacemaker”, a world traveler, and an avid reader. In fact, I recently found a handwritten list that he had written down of many of the books that he had read and even the dates of when he had finished reading them and it was literally in the hundreds of books! He was widely known by his family, friends, and acquaintances as a scholar on a variety of religious and spiritual topics. He also loved to keep on top of current events. I had many trail hikes with him, and new-thought, spirituality and religion was always something he loved to discuss while out in nature on the trails. A peace-loving and “service to others” oriented person, who has humbly helped many people in our community”.

Bill is survived by his wife of thirty years, Kathleen David; his children: Garry David, Drew David, Caroline Carey (Nelson), and Robert David; his stepdaughters: Siobhan O’Brien, Maureen Corneal (Mark), and Erin Jamnoul (Ahmed); his grandchildren: Nicole Bare (Kevin), Crystal Sharon (Chris), Joshua Berryman, Bronson Carey, Matthew David, and Graciella David; his step grandchildren: Nahed, Radwan, and Amir Jammoul; as well as his great grandchildren: Cody, Emily, Cannon, Nate, Annalise, Lena and Scarlett.

A memorial service was held at 7 pm on Sunday, September 8, 2019 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, 780 Timothy Road, Athens, GA 30606.

Notes of condolences may be posted [here](#).

F. JAY DEACON

(1946-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. F. Jay “Jay” Deacon, who died on July 23, 2020, at the age of 74.

Jay was born on June 14, 1946 in Lakewood, NJ to Frank J. Deacon and Grace G. Deacon. In 1968, he received his Bachelor of Arts with a major in Bible from the Central Bible College, Springfield, MO, following which he earned his Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry and New Treatment from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton, MA in 1973. From September 1973 to July 1978, he served as a pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford, CT and from 1978 to 1983, as a senior pastor at the Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church, Chicago, IL. Soon after, in 1983, Jay graduated with his Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL.

Rev. Dr. Deacon was ordained on May 4, 1986 by the Unitarian Church at Bangor, ME (now the UU Society of Bangor, ME) where he carried out his first ministry (1985-1986). From 1986 to 1989, he served as an Associate Director at the UUA Department of Social Justice, Boston and developed the Welcoming Congregation Program. In 1993, he accepted a call from the Unity Temple UU Congregation, Oak Park, IL and ministered for nine years. Later in 2002, he was called to the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, MA where he would minister until 2006. After that, Rev. Dr. Deacon was interested in interim assignments and served as an interim minister at the Unity Church of North Easton, MA (2007-2008); and the First Unitarian Church of Orlando, FL (2008-2009). Next, he served his parish ministry at the UU Church of Manchester, NH (2010-2012); and at the Channing Memorial Church, Newport, RI (2012-2016). On December 8, 2019 Rev. Dr. Deacon retired from his active ministry.

Rev. Dr. Deacon’s denominational affiliation included serving as a member of Unitarian Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), and the Second Unitarian



Church, Chicago, IL. He was very involved with UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association and UURMaPA’s UU Rainbow History Project. Furthermore, he led the consolidation of two former Oak Park UU Congregations to create the Unity Temple UU Congregation, Oak Park, IL. He was editor of the *The Gay Christian*, a quarterly theological journal of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (1975). During his sabbatical leave, Rev. Dr. Deacon served the British Unitarian Congregations in Aberdeen, Scotland, and London (2001).

In addition to his parish and interim ministries, Rev. Dr. Deacon diligently worked with several community organizations. He served as a member of the Communications Committee, Church Federation of Greater Chicago; the Commission on Government, Structures and Systems, UFMCC; and the Administrative Committee of Social Services Department, Capitol Region Conference of Churches, Hartford, CT. He was Community Representative for Institutional Review Board, Howard Brown Memorial College, Chicago; and editor of the *Qoheleth*, seminary newspaper of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (1972-1973). He functioned as a Field Education Supervisor for Yale Divinity School (1975-1977) and as a Director of Gay and Alternate Lifestyle Counseling Service and Switchboard, Hartford, CT (1976-1978). Likewise, he was Consultant for the Religious Education Department at Mundelein College in Chicago, IL, and Field Education Supervisor for the McCormick Theological Seminary, IL (1978-1981). He produced an hour-long weekly broadcast, called Spirit on Valley Free Radio, WXOJ-LP in Northampton, MA for two years and also served on the station’s board.

Rev. Dr. Deacon was a strong advocate of justice and equality, environment, and truth. He worked for protecting fundamental rights of gay and lesbian people; and his sermons were often rooted in social justice issues. He was the recipient of the “Proclamation of Rev. F. Jay Deacon Day in the city of Hartford” award by Mayor George A. Athanson, July 16, 1978. He was a voracious reader and a

F. JAY DEACON

continued

passionate writer. Some of his published writings include: “When ‘Civil Rights’ Equals ‘Lifestyle,’” op-ed piece in *The Hartford Courant* (1977); Sex and Sin: an exploration of spirituality and sexuality in Christian Tradition and in the thought of Otto Rank, with a contemporary affirmation,” *The Gay Christian*, Fourth Quarter, (1982); and *Magnificent Journey: Religion as Lock on the Past, or Engine of Evolution*, Groundwave Publishing (2011, 2014).

Jay is survived by his long time and much-loved friend Steve L’Heureux; his brother Tim Deacon; his sister Pat Sherwin, her three sons (Brian, Chris, and Davis) and their families; and his beloved dog Thunder.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one’s own choosing or to **Friends of the UUA**; or the **Diabetes Research Institute Foundation**; or the **Alzheimer’s Research Foundation**.

On August 11, 2020 Jay’s body was laid to rest in a green burial.

A virtual Gathering of Remembrance was held at 10 am on Saturday, August 15, 2020 by the Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 875 Lake St., Oak Park, IL 60301.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Steve L’Heureux at 287 Hillside Ave, Holyoke, MA 01040.

BARBARA EARL

(1937-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Barbara Earl, who died on December 7, 2020 at the age of 83.

Barbara was born on January 3, 1937 in Ilford, England to Elizabeth MacIntyre and Jack Fenner. In 1957, she received her teaching certificate from St. Osyth's College in England and immigrated to Canada with her husband (Arthur Earl) in 1958. There she taught in the public school system for five years, from there she worked in a nursery school, initially as an assistant, and eventually as owner and administrator. She also established a separate day care center where she worked as a supervisor. When her marriage ended in 1981, it was during this period she discovered Unitarian Universalism, and its commitment to the peace movement made her optimistic. She found people who spoke about the real issues and with whom she could really connect. This marked the beginning of her ministerial journey.

In 1990, Barbara received her Bachelor of Arts with a major in Religious Education from the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. While completing her bachelor's degree she worked as a Chaplain at the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel (UCSP) at Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. She officiated at many weddings and memorials and assisted the minister, the Rev. Mark De Wolfe with his duties as his health declined. Later, she helped the Mississauga congregation weather the storm of the death of their minister (De Wolfe). In 1993, Barbara graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL with her Master of Divinity.

Rev. Earl was ordained on June 19, 1993 by the UCSP at Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Following her ordination, she accepted a call from the UU Congregation of Franklin, NH and served for four years (1993-1997). Afterward, she served at the UU Church of Minnetonka, Wayzata, MN (1997-1999) and retired on August 31, 1999.



Rev. Earl served as President of the Twin Rivers Clergy Association, NH; as an Extension Chair for the NH/VT District (1995-1996); and as a Vice Chair and Program Director for the Emerson Ballou Chapter UUMA. She was involved with the Hospice Care of Nantucket, MA; and Our Island Home, Nantucket, MA (a town owned home for seniors) where she served the morning coffee and offered her good listening to a population who felt isolated from the lives they used to have.

Barbara's daughter Lesley recalls: "Mum was very good at Scrabble and she used to have snail mail games going. She could get multiple 7 letter words. She enjoyed Jeopardy, a lifelong watcher. She was also a member of Mensa at one point in her life."

Barbara is survived by her sister Jean; her daughters: Lesley, Sheila, and Laura; and her grandchildren: Kevin, Brian, Charles, Ainsley, Braedon and MacKenzie. She was preceded in death by her mother Elizabeth MacIntyre, her father Jack Fenner, and her brother Jack.

A virtual memorial service was held on March 7, 2021. An additional service is being planned for a later date at the First Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga, 84 S Service Rd, Mississauga, ON L5G 2R9, Canada.

Condolences may be sent to Lesley Earl at earl.lesley@gmail.com.

LINDA HANSEN

(1948-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Linda Marie Hansen who died on October 30, 2020 at the age of 71.

Linda was born on November 9, 1948 in Chicago to Robert and Catherine (Therese) Hansen. Her sister was born soon after, and when Linda was seven the family moved to Hinsdale, IL. Linda attended Siena Heights College, where she earned a B.A. in Philosophy in 1970. She earned a M.A. in Philosophy from Marquette University, in 1974, and then joined Clarke College in Dubuque, IA as an Instructor of Philosophy.

Linda pursued her doctoral degree while an Instructor, earning her Ph.D. from Marquette in 1976. Dr. Hansen's dissertation was "A Move to Positive Human Relationships: Sartre to de Beauvoir." She continued teaching at Clarke as an Assistant Professor until 1979, when Dr. Hansen became an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. She earned tenure in 1983 and became an Associate Professor. During the summers of 1984-6, Dr. Hansen served as a Visiting Tutor in the Graduate Institute of Liberal Education at St. John's College in Annapolis, MD.

Dr. Hansen, who had been raised in the Roman Catholic tradition, began to doubt her faith when, in her own words, "the suffering of others became real to me in a new way, and with that the impossibility of reconciling such suffering with a loving and all-powerful God." She recognized that she had been waiting to find a religious tradition in which she could pursue not only ethics and "the Big Questions," but matters of social justice.

Pulled by her interests in process and feminist theologies, in 1984, Dr. Hansen enrolled in Pacific School of Religion, in Berkeley, CA and earned a Master of Arts degree in Theology, in 1988. She also began attending the First Universalist Church in Minneapolis, MN, and became a member there in 1990. Together, these factors led to Dr.



Hansen turning towards the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Due to her Ph.D. in Philosophy, the requirement of a Master of Divinity degree was waived for Linda, who was able to complete quickly, at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, the coursework necessary for ministerial fellowship. Since she was still new to Unitarian Universalism, she chose to gain more experience as a UU layperson before starting her internship, in 1993, at West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, OH.

In 1994, Dr. Hansen was called by The Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist in Cedar Rapids, IA, and that congregation ordained her on November 6, 1994. Rev. Dr. Hansen served them until 2003, when she was called by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury (CT). She served them until 2008, when she spent a year in a Milwaukee hospital serving a chaplaincy residency. In 2009, however, Rev. Dr. Hansen realized that she missed parish ministry, and began serving the United UU Congregation in Waukesha, WI.

Linda retired in 2014, which allowed her to spend more time volunteering in animal shelters—a beloved activity that began when Linda "was adopted" by three cats in Danbury. She and her sister also volunteered together at the library and delivered meals to shut-ins and took care of their mother in the home that they all shared.

Rev. Dr. Hansen is widely remembered as a quiet and caring soul who was able to influence and affect many people. "She brought such depth to her ministry, recalls a former parishioner, Jane Leff. "She was such an original thinker, and she braided all that she'd thought about into stunning sermons."

One of Rev. Dr. Hansen's colleagues, Rev. Sue Redfern Campbell, succeeded her in that congregation and remarks that Linda "was unfailingly kind and helpful as we made the transition from her ministry to mine. I experienced her as

LINDA HANSEN

continued

one of the kindest people I've met. She seemed to come from a deeper place than ego."

"Linda was a gentle, kind, and humble minister who gave me the gift of feeling important, like I mattered, when I was with her," affirms another colleague, Rev. Peggy Clarke. "She quietly mentored me by demonstrating her own desire to learn and to stretch herself so that she might better serve others. Speaking without judgement, every conversation was pastoral, even as it was informed by a deep well of knowledge and great wisdom."

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, and is survived by her sister Marian Hansen, and loving friends and family members.

In keeping with Linda's wishes, no memorial service is planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the **Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County (WI)**, the **Aurora Zilber Family Hospice**, or a charity of your choice.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Marian Hansen, 12585 W. Beloit Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151.

NANCY HOLDEN

(1934-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Nancy Holden, who died on August 1, 2020, at the age of 85.

Nancy was born on September 9, 1934 in Louisville, KY to Luna Elsie Cash and Timothy Jay Cash. She received her Bachelor of University Studies in 1982, from North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND following which she served as an associate pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, OH (1983-1985). In 1985, she earned her Master of Divinity from the Methodist Theological School, Delaware, OH and in 1993, she graduated from the United Theological Seminary, New Brighton, MN with her Doctor of Divinity. Her doctoral thesis is titled *Speaking of Relationships: A Study of Fathers and Daughters* (1993) and is available at the United Theological Seminary's library. Before and after her doctoral degree, Nancy served as a pastor to several Methodist Churches in ND, including the Edgewood United Methodist Church, Fargo, ND (1996-2002). She retired in the Dakotas Conference of the Methodist Unitarian Church in 2002 at the age of sixty-eight. After her retirement, Rev. Dr. Holden created and carried out worship services at the UU Society of River Falls, WI and served as a pastoral care minister on an as needed basis.

Rev. Dr. Holden was granted preliminary fellowship on April 7, 2008. She served her community ministry at the UU Society of River Falls, WI from 2009 to 2016. She also was a newspaper editor for the River Falls congregation from 2016 to 2018. After that, she ministered at the Unitarian Society of Menomonie, WI for two years (2017-1019).

In addition to her community and parish ministries, Rev. Dr. Holden was a member of the Unitarian Fellowship in Augusta, GA and Unitarian Church in Bangor, ME. She preached and led worship in five different UU groups from California to Wisconsin. She was a regular preacher at the Conejo Valley UU Society in Thousand Oaks, CA.

Rev. Dr. Nancy maintained an active and consistent presence in the community. She was Chair for the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo United Methodist Clergy group



(2000-2002), and teacher of sexual ethics, communication skills, and relationship therapy. She functioned as a Coordinator for the Jewish Cultural School, Minneapolis, MN (2002-2006); and Director for the Recovery Network, River Falls, WI (Counseling and support services for families affected by alcoholism and chemical dependency). As a Recovery Network Director, Nancy worked to inform, educate, and support families around the issues of underage drinking, addiction, and seeking healing

and recovery. Social justice was another major theme of her life. During the sixties, she was deeply involved in the civil rights movement, and marched and demonstrated in many different places.

Nancy had great interest in music. She was proficient in keyboard and enjoyed choir directing and accompaniment. Her other interests included poetry, journal writing, and novels. Some of her published writings include: *Murrey*, Viking Press (New York), 1979 (fiction); *The K.I.S.S. Guide to the Internet*, Dorling-Kindersley, (New York and London) 2000 (co-authored with Wille Lubka); *Under God's Roof*, camping curriculum for 2003, Christian Board of Publication 2002.

Nancy is survived by her children Willie, Reuben, and Lorraine; her grandchildren Emily, Brian, Martha, Henry, Sophia, Dawn, Manny, Ben, and Solomon; and her beloved cats Howie, Teddy, and Penelope. She was preceded in death by her husband Doug, and her son Henry.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing or to **Buen Vecino**, **Chalice UU congregation** or to the **Southern Poverty Law Center**.

The memorial service was held live via Zoom on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 2 pm Pacific Time by Chalice Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Conejo Valley, CA.

Zoom details: <https://zoom.us/j/94787954789?pwd=SGtwaNcwSUNDSTZHeWJjTEJTYXhhdz09>

Notes of condolences may be sent to Willie Lubka, 2178 La Granada Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

HOPE JOHNSON

(2020)

By Dr. Janice Marie Johnson for her twin sister, Rev Dr. Hope Johnson

Hope's high school graduation yearbook quotation read, "... So much to do, if I only had time..." How I wish that she had had more time to be among us!

Twenty years ago, after being an early respondent to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, and on America, Hope slowly and steadily faced increased respiratory problems. The diagnosis was a scary one -- sarcoidosis... It is a medical condition that particularly affects black women. Hope died last year on November 28th.

Despite the unfathomable devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, I treasure the fact, the gift, that it brought us -- two very close siblings -- closer than ever. We spent most of March through November 2020 sequestered in our lovely home, cooking, making urban floral arrangements, creating one of a kind jewelry, and singing into empty seltzer bottle mics --like years ago when we sang into cola bottle mics. We were the girl groups personified!

Most of you knew Hope as a colleague, as a friend. I'll share a little of the early years. Born seven minutes before I was born, Hope always reminded me -- jokingly -- of her seniority. As children, we had great fun together. Every day brought new adventures! We created our own secretive twin language and we learned to speak French. We were artist, we rode our bicycles, swam, ice skated, designed and sewed our own clothing line. We inherited Miss Em's -- our grandmother's -- sense of style!

As students at the United Nations International School, we were blessed to grow up with students and educators of diverse races, ethnicities, and nationalities. In high school, we were captains of opposing basketball teams. It was probably then that we grasped the essence of conflict as a part of life. During the game, "all bets were off," but after the game, we went back to being non-competitive twins. Hope's commitment to conflict engagement was probably born then.



Growing up culturally Jamaican, while living in many countries, we were Afrocentric, racially conscious, and culturally sensitive. We learned German. We easily adapted into new cultures, in part, because we recognized that we had each other to help us navigate through requisite socialization. We never took that privilege for granted.

As a young adult, Hope worked professionally in the areas of environmental protection, ecotourism, and travel management. Spiritually, she embraced Unitarian Universalism. Realizing that her faith was paramount to her, Hope went to seminary, earned her Master of Divinity degree, and became a UU minister. She enjoyed very successful UU parish ministries; yes, she did! Some years later, she earned her Doctor of Divinity degree in Multifaith Ministry and ultimately became a community minister.

Hope nurtured the development of her daughter, my niece, Jova. Hope loved Jova fiercely. She was always there for her and was deeply present in her daughter's life. Jova's commitment to social justice, and her progress as the exceptional artist and curator that she is today, is because of Hope. Jova is Hope's pride and joy.

Hope also fostered the evolution of her niece, my daughter, Lehna. Hope witnessed and celebrated all of Lehna's "firsts." Lehna's commitment to activism, and her success as the multidisciplinary artist that she is today is inspired by Hope's commitment to Auntie-hood -- as a lifestyle plus the strength of our twinship.

Hope was Gantie -- Great Aunt-- to Simone, my granddaughter. Hope treasured our extended family of siblings -- Helen, Jennifer, and Donald; nieces, nephews, and cousins. Hope treasured her relationship with Divad, Lehna's partner and Simone's dad. So, too, her relationship with Reuben, adopted kin. In my family, we don't take the term "Auntie" lightly. It comes with responsibilities. Hope felt blessed to have been Auntie to many.

HOPE JOHNSON

continued

On November 21, 2020, Hope fell ill. I accompanied her to the hospital. She took several medical tests and seemed to ace each one. We laughed and we high-fived each other. Celebrating life, we made plans for her return home within a couple of days. Little did I know that 'round midnight, she would fall unconscious and stop breathing for too long. Little did I know that this would be the last time that I would see my twin sister's beautiful eyes or hear her sparkling voice... She fought for her life for 7 days, for a week. Then, she peacefully left us.

Although I know that a piece of my soul was ripped from me on the day of her transition, I treasure the memories of our unshakeable bond. I am now a lone twin who will miss the part of me that was Hope for the rest of my life. Yet, Hope's legacy will live on in me, in our family, and in all whose lives she touched.

The outpouring of love and care following her demise assures me that her spirit moved people. Thank you for your many generous, diverse acts of kindness and grace that sustain my family and me daily.

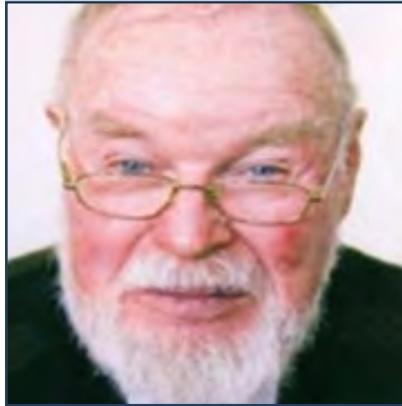
Hope taught me to embrace the South African concept of Ubuntu, meaning that "A person is a person through other persons." Her warm smile, her listening ear, and her caring heart were ever ready for accompaniment. I cherish her qualities of a positive attitude, courage, love, faith, compassion, resilience, and determination.

Hope's metaphor of life is summed up in the words from the hymn, *Just as Long As I Have Breath*¹. No matter what the disappointment, she embraced by always answering, "Yes, to life. Yes, to truth. Yes, to love." Hope lit our hearts with life, truth, love, faith, imagination, and – yes – hope. As the solo matriarch, I will try, always, to live into her profound legacy. And I will ever treasure the myriad of gifts that that Hope gave me, always with her seven-minute edge.

RICHARD A. KELLAWAY

(1934-2021)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Richard A. Kellaway, who died on March 21, 2021 at the age of 86.



Richard was born on July 27, 1934 in the greater Boston area to Arthur K. and Bertha (Sturtevant) Kellaway. As a child he was closely tied to his mother who cherished a dream for him that he should be a “history professor at Harvard”. She died when he was only eleven years old; three years later his father remarried. His stepmother, the late Lorraine (Lowell) Kellaway introduced the family to the local UU church. Richard found himself quickly attracted to the UU teachings and felt they supported his values and growing intellectualized rebellion.

Richard graduated high school while sixteen years of age and began at Tufts University, MA. After two years, he transferred to Antioch University, CA where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (1956). He earned his master’s degree in philosophy from Southern Illinois University, IL in 1957 following which he graduated with a Bachelor’s in Sacred Theology (1961) from Harvard Divinity School.

Rev. Kellaway was ordained on January 8, 1961 by the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, MA where he carried out his first ministry (1960-1968). His ministry at the Bedford congregation marked a total renovation of the church building. He worked out the strategy for funding and oversaw the renovation process, which was an enormous success aesthetically, practically, and financially. In 1968, he accepted a call from the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, NY and served there until 1976. There too, he led the process of defining the needs, persuading the congregation, finding the funds, selecting the architect and contractor, and overseeing the construction process. Then, from 1976 to 1980, he served the UU Service Committee as an Associate Director for US Programs.

In 1981, Rev. Kellaway was called to the UU Church of Sarasota, FL. At the Sarasota congregation, he introduced

many new programs, initiated a process to expand the facilities, developed a capital fund drive, oversaw the construction process, and ministered until 1986. Later in 1986, he returned to the congregation where he first began his ministry, the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, MA and served for an additional thirteen years. During these years, the congregation achieved virtually complete handicapped accessibility, grew greatly in diversity, and open congregational hearings were held to offer members

opportunities to express concerns and opinions. Believing that the congregation was in excellent shape to move forward to a new settled ministry, he retired on June 1, 1999. Upon retirement, recognizing his distinguished services to the church and community, the Bedford congregation honored him as their minister emeritus.

Following retirement, Rev. Kellaway took interim positions at the First Unitarian Church of Providence, RI (2000) and the First Parish UU of Medfield, MA (2000-2001). He also served the UU Fellowship of Stowe, VT from 2010 to 2014.

Throughout his career, Rev. Kellaway was devoted to denominational and community services. He was President of the UU Minister’s Association, Ballou-Channing District, and a member and chair of the Pamphlet Commission, UUA. In the late 60’s, he served the Editorial Board of Kairos (liberal religious publication); and a Committee for An Informed UUA Electorate, as a President. He also served the Editorial Advisory Board of Journal of the Liberal Ministry (UUMA) and was a member of the Curriculum team on UU Identities; the UUA Commission on Appraisal; and the Continental Task Force on Economic Justice, UUA.

Rev. Kellaway was a founding member of the Social Concerns Grants Panel, UUA and the UU’s for a Just Economic Community. During the 90’s, he served as a Chair of Program Committee of Ballou-Channing District, was one of the Board Members of Friends of Czech Unitaria; and a Board Member and an advisor to UU Voice (1990). From 2009 to 2017, he provided his services to the First Parish Church in Dorchester, MA as a Worship Committee Chair.

RICHARD A. KELLAWAY

continued

Richard always had a voice for the church's commitment to social justice, for religion as a liberal art, and for civil rights. His ministry was strong in the areas of religion, culture, and local culture. He was instrumental in the founding and development of the New Bedford Art Museum in MA. He was one of the founders of United Interfaith Action of Fall River and New Bedford. He founded the New Bedford Summer festival and cofounded The Human Economy Center, an organization dedicated to promoting small scale economic alternatives. In addition, he was founding member of the New Bedford Human Rights Commission, and Committee for a moratorium on Prison Construction, NY. He served as a trustee for the Swain School of Design, MA; as a President for the New Dimensions in Comprehensive Health Care, NY; and as a Program Director for The Human Economy Center. He was Vice President and a Program Chair for the Sarasota County Civic League (1981-1985); moderator for the Sarasota Institute for Lifetime Learning (1983-1985); and a founder and president for the Sarasota Health Care Forum (1983-1985). Furthermore, he served as Vice President of the Friends of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology.

In his leisure time, Richard loved travelling, collecting art, museum, music, local history, and history preservation.

Richard is survived by his children: Ronald Kellaway and Andrea Kellaway; his grandchildren: Ethan Kellaway and Angela Stites; and his former wife Jean Dickinson Kellaway. He was the oldest brother of John Kellaway, Joanne Kellaway, Susan Creeden, the late Ken Kellaway, and the late Patricia Kellaway. He was preceded in death by his parents: Arthur K. and Bertha (Sturtevant) Kellaway.

A memorial service will be held in the fall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing.

Notes of condolences may be sent to: John Kellaway, 27 Gulf Rd., Derry, NH 03038.

BRUCE KENNEDY

(1950-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Bruce Edmund Kennedy who died on October 22, 2020 at the age of 70.

Bruce was born on February 24, 1950 to James and Rae Kennedy in Washington, PA. He was the oldest of three children and was raised in the United Presbyterian tradition. He participated in Boy Scouts, and those camping experiences led him to counselor roles at church camps. In 1972, Bruce earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Susquehanna University, in Selinsgrove, PA.

In 1973, Bruce entered Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. During his first two years of coursework, he began experiencing the conflict between the Presbyterian doctrine and his own, more liberal, religious beliefs. Bruce's third year of seminary consisted of a full-time internship in Presbyterian congregation. In 1977, Bruce received his Master of Divinity in Community Ministry, and was licensed by the Presbytery but didn't pursue ordination. He served as a Youth Worker and then as Assistant Pastor in two Presbyterian churches, but continued to wrestle with the lack of theological fit.

By 1977, Bruce had made his way to Providence, RI where he sought out secular employment, serving as Area Director of the American Cancer Society. He met and began dating Susan Drumm, a local teacher. He also began exploring Unitarian Universalism, as well as Ethical Culture. Susan recalls that Bruce was even offered a job at an Ethical Culture institution in New York, but the couple decided to remain in Providence, where Bruce began to offer services to two different Unitarian Universalist congregations: Bell Street Chapel and a new congregation, the Mediator Fellowship (The Church of the Mediator), which held services in a storefront.

After successfully earning UU ministerial fellowship, Rev. Kennedy was ordained on May 16, 1980 by Bell Street Chapel. He served as their minister until 1982, when—having



married Susan—Rev. Kennedy was called to serve the UU Church of Halifax, NS. While there, he also served as Minister-at-Large to the Canadian Maritime Provinces UU Fellowships: three small congregations in New Brunswick. Rev. Kennedy alternated his Sundays between the Halifax congregation and each of the three New Brunswick congregations.

Early in his ministry in Halifax, Bruce successfully underwent treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma, including a month-long hospitalization. He and Susan received tremendous support from the Halifax congregation, but the experience also shifted Rev. Kennedy's outlook. "I could have died back in 1983," he acknowledged, "and anything I got [after surviving] was a bonus." It was also during his ministry in Halifax that he and Susan welcomed their only child, J. Byron.

In 1989, Rev. Kennedy was called to serve First Church of Dedham, MA and then, in 1994, he was called to Martha's Vineyard, MA where he served as Extension Minister for the UU Society of Martha's Vineyard, which was attempting to shift from a summer-only church to a year-round congregation that could support full-time ministry. This vision proved to be unattainable, and so in 1999 Rev. Kennedy and his family moved to Santa Rosa, California where he served the UU Congregation of Santa Rosa until 2003.

Upon leaving the parish ministry chapter of his ministry, Rev. Kennedy began to work for Daniels Chapel of the Roses, a funeral home and crematory in Santa Rosa. At first, he worked with families to prepare their arrangements, but he soon began to lead non-denominational services and graveside services.

His ministry at the funeral home shifted around 2007, when a local pastor asked Rev. Kennedy to work as a per diem chaplain for Sutter Hospice. He soon ended up thriving as a full-time Chaplain. Rev. Kennedy understood that he was called to listen to what dying people most urgently needed to say and was deeply appreciated by his clients and their

BRUCE KENNEDY

continued

families. Susan recalls him seeking out sheet music so that he could sing his clients' favorite songs to them in their dying process. He served as a chaplain until his retirement in 2014, noting that "Hospice is what I should have been doing all along."

Throughout his career, Bruce remained engaged and dedicated to professional development and denominational and community activities. This included two decades of participation in the Cedar Hill study group. He was also a longtime member of the Henry David Thoreau Society, and actively engaged in research on Thoreau's writings, perhaps identifying with Thoreau—as, according to his son, Bruce's transcendental Deism was strong enough that he could walk into the woods and experience God.

Bruce enjoyed reading, music, writing, hiking, fly fishing, collecting kaleidoscopes, and spending time with his family.

When Bruce received radiation treatment in 1983, he was warned that there might be long-term effects. Indeed, for

the last six years of his life, he struggled with white matter disease of the brain, and he spent the last fifteen months of his life in a memory care facility. Bruce passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Rev. Kennedy is survived by his wife, Susan Drumm Kennedy, and son J. Byron Kennedy. He was predeceased by his parents, James C. and Rae Kennedy; his brother, Robert N. Kennedy; and his sister Rebecca N. Kennedy.

A private family memorial service was held.

Memorial gifts may be made to Sutter Care at Home (Hospice), 110 Stony Point Road, #220C, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 or to the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.

Condolences may be sent to Susan Kennedy, 5337 Corbett Cir., Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

GERTRUDE V. LINDENER-STAWSKI

(1931-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Gertrude V. Lindener-Stawski, who died on June 12, 2020, at the age of 89.

Gertrude was born on April 4, 1931 in Racine, WI to Wilhelm Vutz and Mathilde Vutz. In 1952, she earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano from Oberlin College, OH following which she performed secretarial work at Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, OH (1952-1953). She then worked as a piano teacher in Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada from 1953 to 1965. During that time in Pointe Claire, she became very involved with the Lakeshore Unitarian Church where she played piano for the Sunday morning services. Later in 1968, Gertrude graduated from Crane Theological School, MA with her Master of Divinity.

Rev. Lindener-Stawski was ordained by the United Church of Bethel, VT on October 27, 1968 where she carried out her first ministry from 1968 to 1973. From 1973 to 1980, she served as Minister of Education at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI; followed by the UU Church, Columbia, MO (1980-1986), and retiring on November 19, 1990. On April 30, 2006, for her service to the congregation, the UU Church of Columbia, MO bestowed honor to Rev. Lindener-Stawski by naming her their Minister Emeritus. Rev. Lindener-Stawski was the first called minister of the Columbia Fellowship.

In addition to her parish ministry, Rev. Lindener-Stawski served various denominational boards and committees. She was President of the Central Midwest Chapter, UUMA (1975-1976); and Worship and workshop leader for the UUWF Allerton Conference (June 1976). She served as a workshop leader for the Central Midwest District Meetings (Nov. 1978) and as President/Coordinator for the UU Ministerial Sisterhood (1978).



Rev. Lindener-Stawski also provided her services to several community organizations. She was chairman of the Student-Faculty Evaluation Committee at the Crane Theological School, MA (1966-1967). She served the Somerville Committee of Racial Understanding, MA (1966-1968); Gifford Memorial Hospital Board of Corporators, VT (1969-1973); University Religious Workers, Madison, WI; and Madison Westside Clergy Group. Furthermore, she was advisor to the community's non-denominational

youth group in Bethel, VT and did advisory work for the Bethel Community Action Program, VT (1971-1973). She had several of her writings published, some of which include: "Powder in the Pulpit", *The Unitarian Christian*, Spring 1968; "Mother and Minister in a Community Church", *The Bridge*, October 1970; "What is distinctive...", *Kairos*, Autumn 1976; and "*The New Awakening As Narcissism*", a paper for the Prairie Group, November 1977.

In her spare time, Gertrude enjoyed playing the piano. She was a passionate gardener, growing vegetables and flowers. She loved growing orchids and flowering cacti, sang in community choirs, and impressed her friends with her adventurous cooking.

Gertrude is survived by her daughter Margo Lindener, son Peter Lindener, and stepdaughter Nina Stawski.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the **Alzheimer's Foundation of America**, 322 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Margo Lindener at: 5908 Pine Hill Crescent, Halifax, NS Canada B3H 1E5.

DAVID HICKS MACPHERSON

(1928-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. David Hicks MacPherson who died on September 25, 2020 at the age of 92.

David was born on September 23, 1928 in Somerville, MA, to Harold and Doris (Hicks) MacPherson, as the youngest of three sons. In 1929, he was christened in the West Somerville Universalist Church, a congregation David attended throughout his childhood and teen years.

David was a fifth-generation Universalist. “About the time I could attend church and begin to get something out of it,” he recalled, the congregation began reciting the 1935 Universalist Avowal of Faith. Known as the Washington Declaration, this public witness of faith was paraphrased by David throughout his ministerial career as: People of Good Will and Sacrificial Spirit WILL Overcome ALL Evil and Progressively Create the Kingdom of Heaven on This Earth!

David took that declaration to heart; it shaped the rest of his life and ministry—though he identified as a Universalist humanist, not finding God a personally “useful” concept. By the time he was fifteen, he took on multiple leadership roles in the West Somerville Universalist Youth Fellowship and the Middlesex League of the Universalist Youth Fellowship. As a high school student, David attended youth institutes at Ferry Beach, Maine, where he met Dorothy Alice Barber in 1945. Four years later they were married, and Dottie would remain David’s partner until her death in 2005.

Dave enrolled in Tufts College in 1946 (before the institution became Tufts University), which offered a combined, 5-year degree: Dave graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in History in 1950, received his preaching license, and completed two student pastorates: one at Marlboro Universalist Church, and the second at the Foxboro Universalist Church. In 1952 David earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) degree. In keeping with the practice of the time, he was ordained by the Universalist Church of America on June 11, 1952 at Tuff’s Crane Chapel.



Rev. MacPherson served as the Minister-at-Large for the Universalist Church of America from 1952 to 1959. He left to start two Unitarian Universalist congregations: in 1959, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring (MD) and in 1962, Towson (MD) Unitarian Universalist Church, where he served for thirteen years.

In 1975, Rev. MacPherson was called to the First Unitarian Church of Richmond (VA), a congregation which would ultimately designate him Minister Emeritus, in 1998. David held a “sincere conviction that all effective ministries have a limit,” and accepted a call to the Unitarian Universalist Church West, in Brookfield, WI in 1987. He retired from full-time ministry in 1993 but accepted a final call to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro, VA, where he served part-time until 1996. David continued to serve as guest minister to various congregations until preaching his last sermon on his 90th birthday in 2018.

“Rev. Dave,” as he was called in his later years, held deep convictions about social justice and civil rights of all marginalized people. While in Maryland, Rev. MacPherson served as a chaplain to UU students at three colleges; served on the Board and as President of the Suburban Maryland Memorial Society; participated in clergy seminars in public and private mental hospitals; served as President of the Towson Fair Housing Council; served on the Board of the Metropolitan Baltimore Mental Health Association; and served as chairperson of the Housing Task Force of the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Some of his proudest moments were attending the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and being arrested during protests to desegregate the Gwynn Oak Amusement Park in Woodlawn, MD in 1963.

In Virginia, Rev. MacPherson served again with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; was on the Board of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; served as Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Virginia Treatment Center for Children; served on the Public Affairs Committee of the Planned Parenthood League of Virginia; worked for

DAVID HICKS MACPHERSON

continued

fair billing practices of the VA Undertakers' Association; and was involved with the Richmond Peace/Education Center.

In Wisconsin, he served as President of the Greater Milwaukee Funeral and Memorial Society, and as Secretary of the Interfaith Committee on the Family. He also defended the women's clinic there on numerous occasions.

Throughout his career, Rev. MacPherson created meditations, readings, and church school curricula for children and adults to suit the needs of whatever was needed at the time, including working on the joint sex-ed curriculum created with United Church of Christ, About Your Sexuality, the precursor for Our Whole Lives. Rev. MacPherson mentored countless interns, charging each with changing the world through love. He fervently believed that Unitarian Universalism requires "persons who will give their lives to seeking, living in, and spreading the realm of love and life to the whole human family." He loved talking about history and fighting for freedom, and the giant Black Lives Matter pin that he wore "was not just a decoration—it was a call to action."

David is survived by son Duncan MacPherson and daughter Dianna MacPherson, her husband Greg Greenway, and Dianna's children Erin and Ian; niece Leslie MacPherson; and a host of extended family.

David was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy "Dottie" (Barber) MacPherson, in 2005 and his son Douglas in 2016.

An online memorial service was held via **First UU Church of Richmond (VA)** on October 24, 2020.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First UU Church of Richmond.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Dianna MacPherson, 903 Kilby Station Rd., Ashland VA, 23005, or to *MacPhersonFamilyRVA@gmail.com*.

WILLIAM CHESTER MCCALL III

(1948-2020)

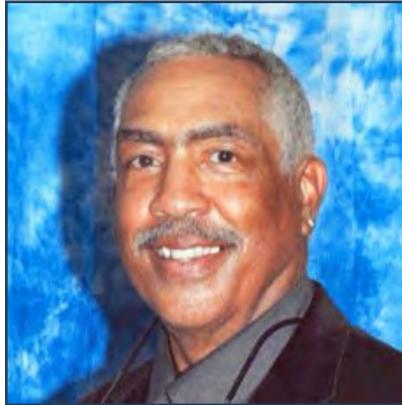
The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. William Chester McCall III, who died on November 16, 2020 at the age of 72.

Chester was born on July 31, 1948. A Bay Area native, he grew up and attended school in East Palo Alto, received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the California State University of San Jose in 1972, and Master of Divinity with a focus in New Testament Biblical Criticism, Counseling and Religious Education from the Pacific School of Religion, CA in 1977. He then worked as a lead counselor at the Sequoia Young Men's Christian Association in Redwood City.

Rev. McCall III was ordained on April 29, 1979 into a specialized Ministry for Families, Youth and Seniors by the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, Bay Association at South Berkeley Community Church in Oakland, CA. From 1996 to 1998, he was interim minister at the UU Church of Restoration, Tulsa, OK, where he assisted in reinstating the "New Century Community Choir" youth diversity program. He then served as an organizing minister at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Durham, NC (1998-2001). Thereafter, Rev. McCall III served two interim ministries at: The First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, CA (2002-2003) and the First UU Church of San Diego, CA (2003-2004). In 2004, he accepted a call from the UU Church of Restoration, Philadelphia, PA where he ministered until 2008. On July 31st, 2014 he retired from active ministry.

Rev. McCall's denominational affiliation included serving as an anti-racism facilitator and consultant for the UUA; as co-chaplain for the African American Unitarian Universalist Minister Association (AAUUM), and Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM). He was a member of the Thomas Jefferson District's Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Transformation Team; and consultant for the Mountain Desert District and for Interweave. He served as a Life Span Faith Development Group member of the Anti-Racism Trainer-Organizers Collective (ARTOP).

Rev. McCall's ministry in and outside the church focused on social justice, spiritual growth of the community, serving



the homeless, runaway youth, seniors, persons with HIV and their families, persons involved with the State or Federal Criminal Justice System and their families. He provided pastoral counseling in the areas and issues related to Death and Dying, Aging, Drug and Alcohol Addiction, Senior Abuse, and Domestic Violence. From 1969 to 1989, Rev. McCall was Co-Director of the Street Ministry of San Jose, CA. Throughout those years, he concentrated on advocacy of human and civil rights of the citizens of San Jose. From

1983 to 1985, he functioned as a Director of Correctional Services at Service League of San Mateo County, CA. He was Public Hearing Coordinator at the Committee for Justice for Melvin Truss, CA (1985-1986) and Executive Director for the East Palo Alto Senior Center, CA (a community-based non-profit committed to the welfare of older Americans of the East Palo Alto community (1986-1989). He worked as a Midway Program Director and Contract Compliance Officer for Volunteers of America, Inc. (1989-1992), and as a Homeless Program Supervisor, for the City of Oakland, Office of Health and Human Services, CA (1993-1996). He served on the Community Advisory Board of the North Tulsa Community Development Corporation, OK and was a member of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black. Furthermore, he was on the Board of Directors of the Tulsa Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Interagency Counsel, and for the North Carolina Youth Gay and Lesbian State Organization.

In his leisure time, Chester enjoyed walking, visiting museums, collecting religious figurines, but his first love was collecting related to butterflies. His other interests and hobbies included dancing, reading, bowling, rubber stamp art, socializing with friends and maintaining contact with family, internet surfing and listening to music.

Chester is survived by his partner Kraig Jones; his sister, Bonnie Duplessis; his brother, Joseph A. McCall; and Darryl Matkins, his longtime chosen family.

A celebration of life for Chester was held on January 16, 2021.

Condolences may be sent to Bonnie Duplessis, 4932 Norwich Pl. Newark, CA 94560 or to Darryl Matkins, 247 Daphne Way, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

THOMAS J.S. MIKELSON

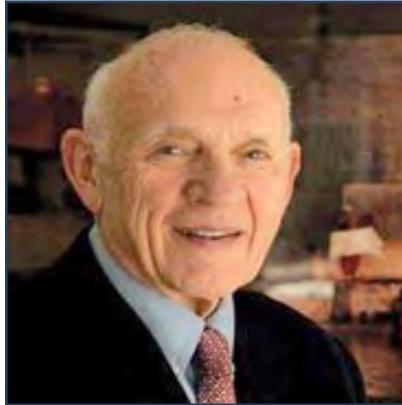
(1936-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Thomas J.S. Mikelson, who died on April 17, 2020, at the age of 84.

Thomas was born on January 31, 1936 in Clarion, Iowa to Clarence Harvey Mikelson and Helen J. Henry Mikelson. In 1958, he graduated from Cornell College, IA with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. He then earned his Bachelor of Divinity in 1963, and Master of Arts in Hebrew Scriptures with concentration in Wisdom Literature in 1968, both from the University of Chicago, IL. From 1967 to 1971, he worked as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Cornell College; and from 1974 to 1976, as a Guest Professor and Lecturer at the University of Iowa, IA. Thomas was a Merrill Fellow at Harvard Divinity School (1980). In 1988, he received his Doctor of Theology from the Harvard Divinity School, MA. His doctoral thesis is titled - *The Negro's God in the Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.: Social Community and Theological Discourse*. He was a Visiting Lecturer on Ministry at Harvard Divinity School from 1994 to 2004.

Rev. Dr. Mikelson was ordained on September 19, 1971 by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City, Iowa City, IA (presently, in Coralville, IA) where he carried out his ministry from 1971 to 1983. Subsequently, he served in interim ministries at the First Parish in Brookline, MA (1987-1988), and the First Church and Parish in Dedham, MA (1988-1989). In 1989, he accepted a call from the First Parish in Cambridge (UU), MA where he served as Senior Minister until 2006. On June 30, 2006, Rev. Dr. Mikelson retired from his active ministry; upon his retirement, the First Parish in Cambridge honored him as their Minister Emeritus. From 2012 to 2014, he served as an interim minister at the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs, NY.

On behalf of the denomination, Rev. Dr. Mikelson was a member of the R.E Curriculum Development in UU Identity group (1972-1974), and a workshop leader on UU Identity at the Star Island Summer Assembly. He served on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee from 1972 to 1976; and the UU Ministers Association Executive Committee from



1973 to 1977. He was a Faculty member for the Pacific Northwest Leadership School (1975); Meadville Lombard Summer Institute (1975); and Starr King School summer session (1976). Furthermore, Rev. Dr. Mikelson served as Chairman, Member and Examination Reader of the UUA Independent Study Committee (1977- 1986) and as Cluster Chairman for the Prairie Star District. He was the Minns Lecturer in 1993; and was on the Melcher Award Committee from 2004 to 2009.

As part of his ministry, Rev. Dr. Mikelson wrote hymns; his best-known hymn, "Wake Now My Senses," was written for the ordination of Rev. Charity Rowley as Minister of Religious Education at First Parish Unitarian Universalist, Arlington, MA. He also wrote, "Sing of Living, Sing of Dying." Both are in the *Singing the Living Tradition* hymnal. The latter hymn appears in the British hymnal, *Hymns for Living*, under, "Living and Dying," with the music he originally intended for it. He and musician, Tom Benjamin, collaborated on, "Journey," for the installation of Rev. Mara Dowdall as Minister of First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, VT and, "Together," in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the consolidation of Unitarian and Universalist traditions at the 2011 General Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Mikelson served as a leader of the terminal-illness support network, Iowa City (1978); and as President of the United Action for Youth, Iowa City, IA (a youth work social agency funded through United Way). He was a member and board member of the Hawkeye Area Civil Liberties Union, Iowa City, IA; and President (1981-1983), Vice President (1979-1981) and Co-founder of the Iowa City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.). He functioned as head planner of a multi-state workshop on "Cancer Counseling" for health care professionals (1982), and as board member for the Crisis Center, Iowa City, and the Housing Commission, Iowa City. He was featured guest and interviewer on several local and regional television shows in Iowa, on topics such as US Foreign Policy, Marriage and Family, Cancer Treatment and Terminal Illness Support.

In Cambridge, he was a member of the Harvard Square

THOMAS J.S. MIKELSON

continued

Churches' Meal Program and member of the Cambridge Business Association. He gave the opening prayer at Harvard Commencement in 1993 when Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was Commencement speaker amid the controversy over the military's, "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. His prayer asked that there be no barriers erected with respect to such categories as race, religion "or ways of discerning or expressing love." He was President of the Board of Ministry at Harvard in 1997 when it issued the recommendation that the Memorial Church at Harvard be allowed to perform same-sex blessing ceremonies within the church in accordance with the University's non-discrimination policy; the recommendation was approved.

He was Assistant Editor for, *The Thought of Paul Tillich*, Editors, Adams, James Luther; Pauck, Wilhelm; Shinn, Roger (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985). He had several of his writings published including: "Cosmic Companionship in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Theology of Social Change", *The Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center*, Spring, 1987. He wrote an article with James Luther Adams, "Legitimation, *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. Mircea Eliade (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1987), pp. 499b-509a. He received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award from the Progressive National Baptist convention in 1993.

Rev. Mikelson was an athlete in football, high hurdles, discus, shot put, and wrestling. He had a tenor voice and enjoyed singing in close-harmony choral groups. He loved to dance. He was a photographer and showed his work at galleries in Cambridge, North Adams and at the Griffin Museum-Photography in Winchester, MA. He especially enjoyed his travels to India, Greece, and Israel. He practiced healing work and was a Reiki Master. He could read in German, French, Spanish, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Latin.

Rev. Mikelson is survived by his wife, Patricia Sheppard; son, Dana Mikelson, and his partner, Michael Chase; son, Joel Mikelson, and his spouse, Frances DeChoudens; daughter, Kelly Mikelson, and her spouse, Abraham Wickelgren; daughter, Arwen Duffy, and her spouse, Sean Duffy; as well as his four grandchildren: Maya Mikelson; Justin Wickelgren; Jack Duffy; and James Duffy. He was preceded in death by his mother, Helen (Henry) Mikelson, and his father, Clarence Harvey Mikelson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, First Parish in Cambridge, 3 Church St, Cambridge, MA 02138.

A memorial service will be scheduled as circumstances allow at the **First Parish in Cambridge**. Burial was private.

JAMES BRADBURY MITCHELL JR.

(1939-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. James “Brad” Bradbury Mitchell Jr., who died on April 25, 2020, at the age of 80.

James was born on October 8, 1939 in Hyannis, MA to James B. Mitchell and Ruth Seabury Mitchell. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education majoring in Music Ed., from Lowell State College, MA in 1961, following which he worked as a Teacher of Music at Lexington Massachusetts Public Schools (1961-1965). Later in 1969, James graduated from the Crane Theological School, Tufts University, MA with his Master of Divinity.

Rev. Mitchell was ordained on June 22, 1969 by the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, MA. In 1969, he accepted a call from the UU Society of Laconia, NH and served for a decade; thereafter, in 1979, he was called to the East Shore UU Church, Kirtland, OH where he would minister until 1986. From 1986 to 2005, Rev. Mitchell served the UU Church of Brunswick, ME and then retired on June 30, 2005. In 2005, the UU Church of Brunswick honored him as their minister emeritus for his nineteen years of service in the history of the congregation. After his retirement, Rev. Mitchell served as an interim minister at the UU Society of Bangor, ME (2006-2008).

In addition to his parish and interim ministries, Rev. Mitchell belonged to several denominational boards and committees. He chaired the UUMA Consultation on Continuing Education (1978); and served on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (1977-1979), and the Executive Committee of the UU Ministers Association (1977-1979). He provided his services to the Ohio-Meadville District Commissioned Lay Leaders Committee (1983), Ohio-Meadville District Long Range Planning Committee (1983-1984), and Ohio-Meadville District Search Committee (1985). Furthermore, for the UU Church of Brunswick, ME, Rev. Mitchell functioned as a Director of Music (2003-2004), and as an Adult RE Professional (2003-2005). From 2007 to 2008, he served the Northeast UUMA Chapter.

Rev. Mitchell was an active member of different community organizations including Brunswick Area Interfaith Council; Rotary International (1978-1979); and Ministerial Association, Mentor, OH (1980). He was Professional Gifts Chair for the



United Way Campaign, OH; President for the Human Rights Council, Mentor, OH (1981-1982) and Board Member of the Streetcar Company, community theatre, NH. Likewise, Rev. Mitchell served as a Convenor to the Lake County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, OH (1982), and as a Chaplain to the Hospice of Lake County, OH (1982-1984).

In his leisure, Brad enjoyed community theatre, acting and directing musical programs for nursing homes, sailing, hiking and camping, and genealogy. He advocated for earth care in his sermons and was a lifelong organic gardener.

In remembering Brad, his colleague Rev. Sylvia Stocker wrote:

“Brad was one of the kindest human beings I have ever met. He possessed the ability to get along with just about anyone. He was encouraging and supportive, trustworthy, and loving. In seminary, I heard countless stories about minister emeriti who interfered with the work of the new minister. I am happy to say my experience was the exact opposite of what I had been trained to expect. I never felt anything but unwavering support, encouragement, and love from Brad. I felt lucky to have him active in the church and at my side as a colleague. I will miss him terribly.”

Brad is survived by his son Ian Mitchell; daughter Rebecca Mitchell, her partner Luke Gottlieb, and their children: Judah Gottlieb, Asher Gottlieb, and Sabastian Mitchell; as well as his brother Douglas Mitchell and sister-in-law Christine Welsh. He was predeceased by his wife, Christine Johnson Mitchell.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick (UUCB)**, PO Box 129, Brunswick, ME 04011.

The memorial service for Brad will go live at 11 am on Saturday, June 6, 2020 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick’s YouTube channel: UUCB AV. The service will be available if people would like to watch it later.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Ian Mitchell at 56 Hillside Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011; or to Rebecca Mitchell at 527 W. Richmond Ave., Richmond, CA 94801; or to Douglas Mitchell at 138 Longwood Ave., Brookline, MA 02446.

KENNETH R. MOCHEL

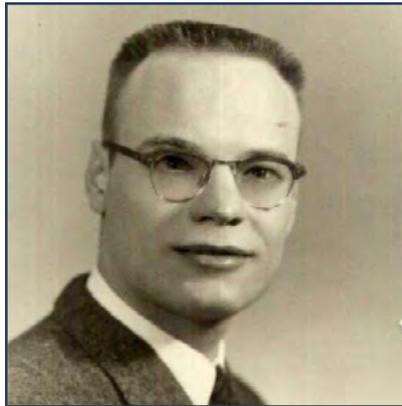
(1934-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Kenneth “Ken” R. Mochel who died on March 31, 2020, at the age of 86.

Ken was born on January 30, 1934 in Woodbury, NJ to Myron G. Mochel and Eunice S. Mochel. He graduated from St. Lawrence University, NY in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, following which he served as student minister at the Universalist Church of Cicero, NY (1956-1957). Later in 1960, Ken earned his Bachelor of Divinity, and received his Religious Education Certification from St. Lawrence University Theological School.

Rev. Mochel was ordained on October 9, 1960 by the First Unitarian Congregation Church, Rochester, NY where he served as an assistant to the Minister for two years (1960-1962). He then accepted a call from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ormond Beach, FL and served until 1965. Thereafter, Rev. Mochel carried out his interim ministry at the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, NY (1965). Subsequently, he served his parish ministry at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church, NY (1971-1972) and the UU Fellowship of Big Flats, NY (1992-1996). On June 30, 1995, Rev. Mochel retired from his active ministry. After his retirement, he ministered at two neighboring congregations: Hornell Alfred UU Society, NY (1999-2000) and Auburn UU Society, NY (1999-2008).

In addition to his parish and interim ministries, Rev. Mochel provided his services to various denominational boards and committees. He was President for the Theological School Student Government, St. Lawrence Theological School (1959-1960), and member of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and Liberal Religious Education Directors Association. Rev. Mochel was UU Service Committee Representative to the Niagara Frontier Unit from Geneseo Fellowship. Furthermore, he served the



Auburn UU Society, NY as an Adult Religious Educator from 2006 to 2014, and as a Newspaper Editor from 2007 to 2014. Notably, Rev. Mochel was one of the three members of the Hornell Alfred Unitarian Universalist Society (HAUUS) who facilitated the move from Alfred to Hornell.

Ken was also an active member of several community organizations, including Planning Council of Community Chest, Utica, NY; the National Association for

the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Rochester and Daytona Beach; Rochester Association for the United Nations; the City Club of Rochester; and Return Patients Committee of the Mental Health Association of Volusia County. He chaired the Rochester Independent Political Forum and served the Executive Committee of Halifax Chapter of the American Association for the United Nations; Executive Committee of Halifax Area Council on Human Relations; and the Social Concerns Committee of the Ministerial Association of Halifax Area. Likewise, Ken functioned as a Secretary of New York State CAP Directors Association and was delegate to the National Convention in NYC (May 1964). From 1966 to 1969, Ken was chosen to work for an anti-poverty program as an Executive Director at Utica Community Action, Inc. Utica, NY.

In his spare time Ken enjoyed gardening and lawn care. He was well known as a Master Gardener and had started a food pantry garden in Auburn, NY.

Ken is survived by his wife Audrey Mochel; his two sons David Mochel and Jim Mochel; and his sister Virginia Clark.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the **Auburn UU Society**, 607 N Seward Ave, Auburn, NY 13021-2107.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Audrey Mochel at 13 Wood Street, Auburn, NY, 13021.

VERNON C. NICHOLS

(1932-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Vernon C. Nichols who died on September 11, 2020 at the age of 88.

Vernon Charles Nichols was born on February 6, 1932 in Fort Covington, New York to Bertha N. and Vernon C. Nichols. He was raised Methodist and grew up in New York rather than his parents' home of North Carolina because his father, a Methodist minister, did not want to serve congregations in the segregated South.

As a young teenager, Vern was deeply moved by the nuclear bombings of Japan. Even at that early age, he confirmed his commitment to pacifism: a choice and way of being that would define his professional life.

Vernon attended Syracuse University where, in 1950, he met Susan Radcliff. Vern graduated in 1953 and in 1954, after Sue's graduation, they married. Vern went on to receive his Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) degree in 1956 and his Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) degree in Pastoral Psychology, from Boston University, in 1957.

Rev. Nichols was ordained in 1956, and from 1957 to 1959 he served the Methodist Church in Alexandria Bay/Redwood, NY. He went on to serve the Community Methodist Church of Ozone Park (NY) until 1964. In 1963 Rev. Nichols began serving as chaplain at City Hospital at Elmhurst.

For a while, Rev. Nichols thought that he would like to teach World Religions on the college level, so he enrolled at NYU for a Ph.D. program. But after returning to graduate studies (again), he decided that he was really a minister. However, he felt constrained by Methodist theology and its lack of "free inquiry." Rev. Nichols had already been encouraged to pursue ministry within the Unitarian Universalist Association, was attracted by its forward-facing stance, and made inquiries in 1966. He gained fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1967.



Within Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Nichols served as Assistant Minister to the Plandome Congregation (now the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY) from 1967 until 1971, when he was called to his longest ministry: the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa (Ontario), Canada, where he served until 1983. During Rev. Nichols' ministry the congregation used some of their property to build a senior residence open to any eligible applicant regardless of religious affiliation. This facility has become an important Ottawa institution.

Rev. Nichols next served in the Universalist Church of West Hartford CT, for a year—because in 1984, he responded to a critical need at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation (Southfield, MI). After a year in the Detroit area, Rev. Nichols and his wife Sue were hired to head the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations. It was a natural fit, given their longtime and informal partnership in the parish, and due to their longtime commitment to justice, peace, and nuclear disarmament. In the words of one of their sons, in this role his father pursued "a dream of a world that invests in its people rather than weaponry." Sue and Vernon's co-director arrangement, in which each served half-time, allowed Rev. Nichols to accept the many requests he received to officiate weddings.

At the UU Office at the UN, Rev. Nichols and Sue worked with other like-minded organizations, including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, with which he had cultivated a long relationship. The couple was able to "create more together than they could separately," one of their three sons recalls, in what he describes as "the synergistic effect of two people working to make the world a better place day after day, year after year, decade after decade." Over the years, Rev. Nichols made seven trips to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan—always very sad but meaningful visits—to participate in their annual memorials of the 1945 nuclear bombings of those cities. On one occasion, he was arrested for "trespassing on US Government Property" when protesting nuclear bomb testing.

VERNON C. NICHOLS

continued

In 1993, Vernon and Sue retired formally, but continued their service to their ideals. Vernon served as President of the UN's NGO committee on Disarmament, Peace, and Security.

In 2018, Vernon and Sue moved to Portland, OR to be closer to family.

Vernon was recognized by friends and colleagues as carrying a quiet thoughtfulness and being a "peacemaker." He had a special gift for preaching and encouraging people to work together toward common goals. "He led by example, full of compassion, full of love," one of his sons recalled.

Underlying his principles was a man who loved to travel and entertain; a "punster extraordinaire" who also made frequent literary references. His family remembers him as taking them to the beach and circus as well as to vigils in protest of the Vietnam War, and on road trips to the mountains. They also remember his enjoyment of Rowe Camp, where Vernon served as director of the junior high program for a couple of summers.

"I always wondered how he was able to keep his cup so full, that he was always able to pour more sweetness and more love on his family members, as well as those he had never met before," noted one of his grandchildren.

Vernon died peacefully with much appreciated help from Hospice at his home in Portland on September 11, 2020.

Vernon is survived by his wife, Susan (Sue); sons Howard Vernon, George Martin, and Peter John; and grandchildren Matthew Griffin, Hope Radcliff, and Stephen Vernon David.

An online memorial service was broadcast from the Eliot Chapel of the First Unitarian Church, Portland (OR) on October 3, 2020.

Memorial gifts may be made to the following organizations:

- **First Unitarian Church of Portland**
- **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation** (by check: 1622 Anacapa St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101)
- International Association of Religious Freedom, US Chapter, c/o Mrs. Betsy Darr, 183 22nd Ave. San Francisco, CA 94121
- **Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations** (by check: Attn: Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth St. Boston, MA 02210)

Notes of condolence may be sent to Sue Nichols, 1300 NE 16th Ave., Apt. 436, Portland, OR 97232.

DAVID B. PARKE

(1928-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. David B. Parke, who died on June 6, 2020, at the age of 91.

David was born on September 25, 1928 in Buffalo, NY to Robert Parke and Mary Boynton Parke. He graduated from Antioch College, OH with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1952, following which he received his Bachelor of Divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL in 1955. From 1960 to 1965, David worked as a Professor of Church History at the Theological School of St. Lawrence University, NY and as a visiting lecturer for the Crane Theological School of Tufts University from 1962 to 1963. Later, in 1965, he earned his Ph.D. in American Church History from Boston University, MA. His doctoral dissertation was titled *The Historical and Religious Antecedents of the New Beacon Series in Religious Education* and was published in 2009 by Meadville Lombard Press under the title *The Children Were My Teachers: The Revolution in Religious Education*.

Rev. Dr. Parke was ordained by the Unitarian Church of Peterborough, NH on February 12, 1956, where he carried out his ministry for five years (1955-1960). Prior to his ordination, he served as a student minister at the Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation, IL (1954-1955). Following his ministry at the Peterborough congregation, he was called to serve the Unitarian Society of Germantown, PA (1965-1971). From 1972 to 1973, he served in interim ministry at the First Parish UU Church, Scituate, MA and then, from 1973 to 1974, at the UU Church of Reading, MA. Soon after, in 1974, Rev. Dr. Parke accepted a call from the First Parish Brewster UU, MA where he ministered for six years (1974-1980).

As a part of ministry, Rev. Dr. Parke was editor for the *UU World* from 1981 to 1987; he planned and created each issue of the periodical as well as wrote articles and editorials. Succeeding his editorial calling, he accepted interim ministry opportunities at four UU congregations: the First



UU Society of Exeter, NH (1988-1990); the UU Congregation in Andover, MA (1990-1992); Follen Church, Lexington, MA (1992-1993); and the UU Church of Montreal, Canada (1993-1995). After these interim ministries, he served as a settled minister at the UU Church of Spokane (1995-1996). Afterward, Rev. Dr. Parke was again drawn to interim ministry and ministered at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, NY (1996-1997); the Emerson UU Church of Houston, TX (1997-1999); the First UU Church of Richmond, VA (1999-2000); the First Unitarian Church, Louisville, KY (2001-2002); the UU Church of South Hills, PA (2002-2003); West Shore UU Congregation, Ludington, MI (2003-2004); and the First UU Church, Detroit, MI (2004-2005), until his retirement on August 14, 2005.

On behalf of the denomination, Rev. Dr. Parke was continental President of American Unitarian Youth (1947-1948), and ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the American Unitarian Association. He was editor of *The Epic of Unitarianism*, a documentary history (Beacon Press, 1957; paperback 1960; new edition 1992); and *The Right Time: The Best of Kairos* (UUA, 1982). *The Unitarian Universalist Christian* dedicated an issue to his writings entitled *Naming the Holy: Selected Writings of David B. Parke* (Vol. 59, 2004). Furthermore, he contributed a chapter to *A Stream of Light: A Short History of American Unitarianism* (UUA, 1975). He was trustee for the Meadville Lombard Theological School and served on the Steering Committee of the UUA Interim Ministry Program for three years (1996-1999). He provided his service as a member of several UU denominations, some of which include the UU Ministers Association; the UU Service Committee; the UU Historical Society; the UU Partner Church Council; the UU Christian Fellowship; and the UU Women's Heritage Society.

In addition to his interim and parish ministries, and his denominational work, Rev. Dr. Parke belonged to several community organizations. He was Deputy Director of Onboard Inc. Community Action Agency, MA (1972-1974); and trustee of Antioch College, OH (1970-1976)

DAVID B. PARKE

continued

and the James Luther Adams Foundation (1978-1980 and 2005-2020). He served the Interim Ministry Network, the Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Poverty Law Center, Oxfam, The Nature Conservancy, Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania, Doctors Without Borders, and WQED-Pittsburg. In Pittsburgh, he served on the Board for the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) and was a member of its Economic Equity Task Force. David was one of the two original chairs of Full Recognition and Funding of the Black Affairs Council (FULLBAC), established in 1968 in Philadelphia as an independent, continent-wide, white group to support the BAC and advance the cause of black empowerment.

In his spare time, David enjoyed walking, hiking, swimming, singing, movies, classical music and visiting his far-flung family during holidays and summer vacation. He travelled to many countries, including Israel, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Czech Republic, Romania, Austria, Scotland, Great Britain, Greece, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and Chile.

David is survived by his four sons: Richard, John (wife Brett Warren), Edward (wife Dawn Walnut), and William (wife Elizabeth); his two daughters: Robin Melavalin (wife Diane Hammer); and Alison Melavalin; his eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; his brother Andrew; as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his older brother Robert Parke Jr.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the NAACP, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Interment was at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, NY.

Notes of condolence may be sent to John Parke at PO Box 51, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675 or may be left **here**.

DAVID A. PETTEE

(1957-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. David Allen Pettee who died on September 13, 2020 at the age of 63.

David was born on August 18, 1957 in Huntington, New York to Mary and James. He was a fifth-generation Unitarian who, in his own words, “carr[ie]d forth an unbroken familial connection since the 1790s.”

Growing up near Boston, Dave attended the Winchester (MA) Unitarian Society until his teen years. In 1979 he graduated from Ithaca College with a B.S. in Recreation, and in 1983 with a Master of Social Work from Boston University.

In 1984, David reconnected with his UU roots in what he described as a “homecoming” at the UU Church of Reading (MA). Despite not feeling suited to parish ministry, he began to consider entering the UU ministry and entered Starr King School for the Ministry shortly thereafter.

While a seminarian, David participated in what he called “a walking prayer for peace”—the Great Peace March from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. For Dave, it became a “nine month conversion experience that indelibly convinced me of the ever-beckoning force of interdependence.” In 1988, Dave undertook a shorter, month-long peace march in the U.S.S.R. Like many other experiences he undertook, Dave was driven by his values just as much as he was drawn to once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

During and after his years in seminary, Dave was arrested multiple times as part of protests that constituted “moral obedience acts as a reflection of my religious principles.” He derived a sense of faithfulness by living out these values, and reflected that “riding to jail with Daniel Ellsberg, William Sloan Coffin, and Bill Schulz taught me that there is a great sense of joy that comes from doing the right thing.”

When Dave graduated from Starr King in 1988, there were only two paths for credentialed ministry: parish and religious education. David didn’t feel called to either of those tracks—the work he wanted to do was in pastoral care and health care—but our tradition didn’t yet have a process to formally



sanction that form of ministry. After a brief program of contemplation at St. Benedictine Monastery, Dave used his Social Work skills by working in a state-funded program for developmentally disabled adults in San Francisco. In 1990, he married Mindy Scharlin. They welcomed two daughters, Hannah and Sophie, and for a time, Dave was a full-time parent to his daughters.

When the new community ministry track was created in 1991, Dave began the

process of claiming ministerial fellowship. He established a relationship with the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, moving intentionally, and with collegial welcome, into the heart of congregational life. In so doing, Dave laid the groundwork for establishing the first affiliative relationship between a community minister and a UU congregation. Rev. Pettee was the first UU minister ordained—on June 5, 1994—as a community minister.

At the time, parish ministry was the norm for UU ministers and therefore conferred both authority and status. Rev. Pettee felt the burden and responsibility of being “first,” even as he was aware that his being a straight, white man made the way easier than it would be for others. The experience helped Dave grow his understanding and vision of what was possible in ministry—and, in turn, allowed him to do the same for others. In 1999, for example, Rev. Pettee chose to stop signing marriage licenses, lamenting that “when a minister signs a marriage license, he or she regrettably reaffirms the state-sanctioned discrimination against same-sex couples, who are categorically denied the opportunity to make their unions legal.”

Rev. Pettee was a founding member of the Pacific Central District (PCD) Community Ministry Council, and was also the first community minister to serve as President of a UUMA chapter (PCD)—a role he used to organize his colleagues to unanimously oppose Proposition 22, a ballot initiative that amended the California state constitution to make marriage legal only between a man and a woman.

Dave soon entered full-time Hospice work; his title remained social worker (not chaplain), but he always approached this work as a minister. Over the course of ministering

DAVID A. PETTEE

continued

to more than five thousand dying people, and striving to incarnate grace to them, Dave noted that “the dying experience offers a remarkable opportunity for healing and return to relationship.” He became a member of the Death with Dignity Education Center Task Force, and for a time provided counseling to couples facing infertility.

While living in California, Dave was tethered to his New England ancestry, in part, through his love for the Red Sox. For Dave, this went beyond mere baseball, as it was threaded with theological implications: that the Red Sox didn’t win a single World Series between 1918 and 2004 was an opportunity to live out, as both witness and fan-participant, the layered experiences of suffering, hope, fidelity in the face of explicit disappointment, and redemption.

In 2002—two years before their historic win—Rev. Pettee returned to Boston with his family and joined the Unitarian Universalist Association as Ministerial Credential Director. It was a position he described as his “dream job,” in which Rev. Pettee was charged with overseeing the formation process for individuals pursuing ministerial fellowship. Over the course of the next eighteen years, he would conduct this institutional ministry, minister by minister, with pastoral grace and utmost integrity.

One of Rev. Pettee’s chief characteristics was the willingness to withstand discomfort in the service of deeply-held values. “He didn’t turn away from what was hard,” observed a colleague. This was true of his quiet pride of having completed ten consecutive Boston Marathons (and, later, an eleventh). It was also true in his professional work: he had high expectations for himself, as well as for others—and he therefore invited people to take responsibility for their choices.

During the course of his ministry at the UUA, Rev. Pettee’s exploration of his ancestors divulged, in 2006, that his own family members had been enslavers. To explore this legacy head-on, in 2007 he and Mindy traveled to Ghana, where his ancestor had traded rum for enslaved Africans. He also tracked down, in New York, a descendant of those enslaved persons and met with the family several times. He believed that “truth-telling and repentance can be an antidote to the abuse of power that was institutionalized in the practice of slavery.”

In 2017, after his marriage to Mindy had ended, Dave met Jen Nahas at a meeting where they soon learned that they were bonded by the belief that “walking solves everything.”

Their relationship flourished, and they walked the Camino de Santiago together in 2018. In 2019 they completed a coast-to-coast hike in England. Upon returning home, Dave proposed to Jen and then received a daunting medical diagnosis. Musing that he was “always the peace activist,” Dave imagined his cancer as “a new and uninvited dance partner in my life... who communicates in strange and unexpected ways.”

Whereas the impact of Dave’s ministry and work had been one-on-one for decades, Dave shifted course: he began writing vulnerable CaringBridge posts that brought his Hospice work full circle by creating a public ministry of bearing witness to his own death. David used his raw, witty posts (“At least I lived long enough to see the Red Sox win the World Series, not just once, but four times”) to take cancer at a steady pace, “breathing through pain and taking advantage of the downhill moments.” It was an unfamiliar role for him, Jen observed, as “caregiving was Dave’s love language, his theology, and the way he walked in this world.”

Dave made the difficult decision to leave his position at the UUA on July 15th, officially retiring with “no regrets.” After devoting thirty-five years to serving the cause of Unitarian Universalism, with the last eighteen years on staff at the headquarters of his faith, Rev. Pettee died at a Hospice home on September 13th, 2020.

David is survived by his fiancée Jen Nahas; his daughters Sophie and Hannah; his brother Jon; and his father, James.

A memorial service will be held in the Spring of 2021 at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to:

- **Coming to the Table**, which works to create a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to hear the racial wounds of the past, from slavery and the many forms of racism it spawned.
- **The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project**, whose mission is to return language fluency to the Wampanoag Nation.
- **Axia**, which supports Orthodox Christian Women to have a voice and place in their Faith.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Jen Nahas at jnahas@comcast.net or at 2 Waterman Road, Cambridge, MA 02138.

OLIVER E. PICKETT

(1925-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Oliver “Gene” E. Pickett who died on July 19, 2020, at the age of 94.

Gene was born on September 18, 1925 in Winfield, MD. He served the United States Navy from January 22, 1943 to June 5, 1946, following which he went to the American University in Washington, DC and received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1948. He then graduated with his Bachelor of Divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL in 1952; the same year he married his fellow seminary student Helen Rice. In 1974, Meadville Lombard Theological School awarded Gene with an honorary Doctor of Divinity.

Rev. Pickett was ordained on February 28, 1953 by the First Unitarian Church of Miami, FL (now the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami, FL) where he carried out his first ministry from 1952 to 1954. He then accepted a call from the First UU Church of Richmond, VA and ministered for eight years (1954-1962). Later, in 1962, he was called to the UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA where he would serve for twelve years (1962-1974). Subsequently, he joined as a Ministerial Education Director at UUA (1974-1975), and as a Director of Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services, UUA (1975-1979). From 1979 to 1985, Rev. Pickett served as the fourth President of the UUA. In 1986, for serving the church in fine and solid fashion during a difficult period of transition, the UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA honored him as their minister emeritus. After his presidency, Rev. Pickett continued his ministry at the Church of the Larger Fellowship, Boston, MA as a settled minister (1986-1991). On July 31, 1991, after years of distinguished service to Unitarian Universalism, he retired from his active ministry. In 1992, the Church of the Larger Fellowship honored him as their minister emeritus.

Rev. Pickett’s denominational work included serving as a Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice (1955-1963). He was Vice Chair for the Southern Unitarian Institute (1958); President



for the Thomas Jefferson Ministers’ Association (1962-1963); and member of the Regional Fellowship Committee, UUA (1962-1970). He also was President for the Mid-South District, UUA (1963-1965); and Ministerial Settlement Representative, Mid-South District (1971-1974). Likewise, Rev. Pickett served the Board of Review, UUA (1971-1974). He was a board appointed member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee from 1999 to 2000. For the UU Meeting House, Chatham, MA, he served as a

Board Member from 1999 to 2000, and as a member from 2003 to 2017.

Rev. Pickett’s presidency marked an era of growth in the history of Unitarian Universalism. The number of adult memberships, and the religious education programs grew significantly. There were four consecutive years of growth in the total number of UU congregations; and with the creation of the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Urban Ministry Fund, the urban congregations received significant attention from the UUA. A new youth organization: Young Religious Unitarian Universalists was launched. The UUA had a higher percentage of settled women ministers - fifty percent higher- than any other denomination. Rev. Pickett also strongly advocated on placing women ministers who acknowledged publicly as lesbians. In addition, he initiated an annual conference of District Presidents to bring district leaders to Boston, to share with them and learn with them. Also, social actions remained high on the denominational agenda during his term; an Institutional Racism Audit at the administrative and board level of UUA was initiated to address the issues of racism. Furthermore, the Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Fund was launched to distribute approximately \$400,000 a year for assistance to women in India who constituted the most impoverished and powerless. Beacon Press was established as a leading publisher in the field of women’s studies during his tenure. Rev. Pickett facilitated the writing of UU principles which needed modifications; he was responsible for the UUA’s first major capital campaign *Vision for Growth* and the creation of *Friends of the UUA*. In 1989, he was bestowed with the Award for Distinguished Cause of Unitarian Universalism.

OLIVER E. PICKETT

continued

Gene was a board member of the Atlanta Urban League (1963-1969), Greater Atlanta Council on Human Relations (1963-1969) and Planned Parenthood Association (1965-1974). He provided his services as a member to the Child Development Committee, Community Council of the Metropolitan Atlanta Area (1968-1970) and to the Atlanta Metropolitan Mediation Centre (Drug Rehabilitation) (1970-1974). He served as Board Member for the National Urban League (1980-1983) and for the Americans for Religious Liberty (1982); as a member for the Society of Propagating the Gospel Among the Indians (1983) and the Joint Theological Schools Committee. Similarly, Gene was Executive Council, Treasurer and Vice President of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) and chair of the board of the Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Throughout his ministry, presidency and his life, Rev. Pickett was active in civil rights movements. He participated in the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965. He was

very committed to an inclusive and diversified religious movement and supported ordinations of women and homosexuals as clergy. In his spare time, he enjoyed reading (especially history), collecting games, traveling, gardening and bird watching.

Gene is survived by his three daughters: Ann, Martha, and Emily; his grandson Alan; as well as his many close friends and loving relationships. He was preceded in death by his wife Helen R. Pickett.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the **Unitarian Universalist Association**.

A virtual service of remembrance was held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 4 pm EDT.

Notes of condolences may be sent to his daughter Martha at ghpickett2@gmail.com.

SHERMIE L. SCHAFER

(1942-2021)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Shermie L. Schafer, who died on February 23, 2021 at the age of 78.

Shermie was born in Woodburn, IN on July 27, 1942 to Louis Schafer and Viola Schafer. She was raised in her parents' farmhouse in Woodburn and attended Woodland High School. After graduating high school, she attended Indiana University and received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health Dental Hygiene (1965). She then worked as a dental hygienist for several years.

From 1974 to 1979, Shermie was a dental hygiene educator at the Indiana University School of Dentistry; there she taught clinical dental hygiene, communications, gerontology, and outreach programs (1974-1979). She also completed her didactic study for Master of Science in Nutrition from Indiana University (1975-1979), and worked as a project coordinator for the NIMH, Indiana University School of Dentistry (1976-1979). She decided to make a professional transition to Pastoral Care and Counseling and earned her Master of Divinity (1984), and Master of Sacred Theology (1987), both from the Christian Theological Seminary, IN.

Rev. Schafer was ordained on June 3, 1984 by the All-Souls Unitarian Church at Indianapolis, IN. She served the Oaklandon UU Church, Indianapolis, IN as an interim minister from 1985 to 1986. Following her ministry at Oaklandon church, she served in community ministry as a chaplain at the Methodist Hospital, IN (1985-1989); and as a pastoral counselor at the Center for Family Life Ministries, IN (1989-1995). Subsequently, Rev. Schafer ministered as an interim for the following congregations: the UU Church of Muncie, IN (1990-1991); the UU Church of Evansville, IN (1995); the UU Congregation of Owensboro, KY (1995). In 1995, she accepted a call from the West Shore UU Congregation, Ludington, MI where she served as an organizational minister for a year. After 1996, Rev. Schafer continued her service as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

In addition to her parish and community ministries, Rev. Schafer's service to Unitarian Universalism included serving as Chair for the Ohio Valley Unitarian Universalist District, Women and Religion Committee (1980-1982). She designed



the adult group discussion guide and gave related workshops and sermons for the district. She volunteered as a teen group leader at the All-Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis, IN (1980-1981) and was a member of the Guidelines Committee of the UUMA (1988-1992). She also was a member of the UU Service Committee and Ministerial Sisterhood, UUA. She was appointed to the Grants Panel: Funds for Unitarian Universalism. Furthermore, she led several workshops and retreats for Unitarian Universalists.

Rev. Schafer was affiliated with various community organizations. She served on the board of the Julian Center, in Indianapolis and on the Committee for Ministers in a Specialized Setting for the Church Federation of Indianapolis. She was president of the International Society of Theta Phi, Beta Chapter, Christian Theological Seminary, IN and a member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Shermie had interests in psychology, human potential groups, women's studies, music, theatre, antiques, and animals. She enjoyed creative home projects (sewing, painting, decorating), healthy cooking, and gardening. She loved creative writing and was a gifted writer; some of her writings are:

"A Dental Hygienist Role in Geriatrics" in *Geriatric Dentistry: Proceedings of a Multidisciplinary Conference*. The University of Iowa, July 1979.

"Dentistry, Aging, and Me: A Personal Perspective" in *The Indiana University School of Dentistry Alumni Bulletin*, Fall 1978.

"Return to the Dance: The Power of Ritual in 'Ordinary Lives'", in *Women and Religious Ritual*. Leslie A. Northup, Ed., The Pastoral Press, Washington, DC, 1993.

Shermie is survived by her husband of twenty-two years Bernard J. Beca; her sisters, Sue Medley and June Schafer, and their children; her stepson, Kai McLaughlin; her German Shepherd, Rika; and many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, infant sister Stella, and brother Willard L. Schafer.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the **German Shepherd Rescue Indy** or to **PBS**.

Notes of condolence may be written [here](#).

GLEN W. SNOWDEN

(1932-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Glen W. Snowden, who died on June 21, 2020, at the age of 87.

Glen was born on November 3, 1932 in Bethlehem, PA to Clement and Anna Wenger Snowden. In 1954, he received his Bachelor of Arts from Franklin and Marshall College, PA following which he earned his Bachelor of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, CT in 1958. Later in 1969, he graduated from the Boston University School of Theology with his Doctor of Theology.

Rev. Dr. Snowden was ordained on November 1, 1958 and granted Preliminary Fellowship in 1967. He served in parish ministry at the First Congregational Society of Jamaica Plain UU, MA from 1966 to 1969. In 1979, he accepted a call from the First Parish of Medfield, MA where he ministered until 1984. On February 8, 1985, he retired from his ministry. After his retirement, he served as interim minister at the following congregations: the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, NH (1988-1989); the Unitarian Society of New Haven, CT (1990-1991); and the First Parish Universalist Church, Stoughton, MA (1991-1993). He continued providing his services as a guest preacher for various congregational and Unitarian Churches until the last years of his life.

Rev. Dr. Snowden's denominational activities included serving as a secretary for the Society of Ministerial Relief, UUA, Stow, MA. He was a member of the UUMA; First Parish Church UU of Stow and Acton, MA; and the First Church in Boston, MA. Furthermore, he had active involvements with the UU PSI Symposium. He also served the Planning Committee for the Attleboro Fall Conference for several years; and was Secretary and one of the directors of the



Unitarian Service Pension. Remarkably, Glen was the first recipient of the unsung Hero award of UURMaPA (2012).

In addition to his parish and interim ministries, Glen worked as an associate Professor in the humanities department at the Emerson College, MA (1965-1988). He was member and secretary of the Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society; and was very engaged with the Boston Chapter of American Society of Dowsers.

In his spare time, Glen liked being with friends and family; enjoyed music, especially Chopin, Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and Pavarotti. He immensely loved his two dogs: Randy and Poochie. His other interests included traveling inside and outside the United States. He annually traveled to Florida, Arizona, New York, and Cape Cod and took trips as far as China and Egypt.

Glen is survived by his fiancé Margaret Nasemann; his daughter Julie Snowden Martin; his grandsons: Jesse Tyler Martin and Gregory Kyle Martin; his sisters: Barbara Green, Anna Mae Beddows and her husband Jerry; as well as many nieces, nephews and close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Lorraine, son-in-law Rick Martin, brother Armon Snowden and sister Mary Lou Snowden.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a musical, educational, or religious institution of one's own choosing.

A memorial service was held at 2 pm on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Badger Funeral Home, 347 King Street, Littleton, MA 01460.

Notes of condolences may be sent to his daughter Julie at julie8421@yahoo.com.

BERTRAND H. STEEVES

(1926-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Bertrand Harlow Steeves who died on September 16, 2020 at the age of 94.

Bert was born on March 16, 1926 in Ayer, MA to Elizabeth (Vosmus) and Rev. Earle R. Steeves, who served as minister of the First Congregational Society (Unitarian) in Leominster. Although he briefly joined a Congregational church in his teens, Bert was one of five children—two of whom would go on to serve the Unitarian ministry.

In 1949, Bert received a B.S. in Education from Fitchburg State Teachers College after his studies were interrupted by military service: from 1944 to 1946, Bert served in U.S. Army, nine months of which was in Italy.

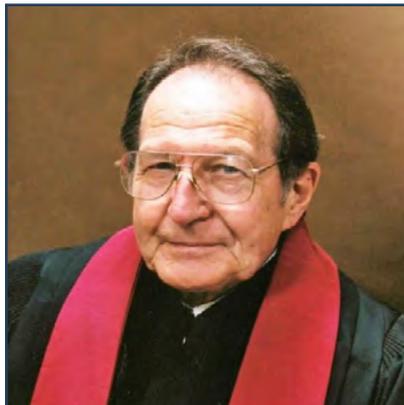
He enrolled in Harvard Divinity School, during which he served, in the summer of 1950, as a student minister in Temple, ME. He graduated with an S.T.B. in 1952.

In that same year, Rev. Steeves was ordained by the First Congregational Society (Unitarian) in Leominster. Both his brother—by now, a Unitarian minister—and his father participated in the service.

Also in 1952, Bert married Maxine Hertel. The couple would go on to have three children: Jonathan, Kathryn, and Christopher.

From 1952 to 1956, Rev. Steeves served First Parish Church in Pembroke, MA. In 1956, he was installed as the fourteenth minister at First Religious Society, Newburyport, MA. At his installation ceremony, his father, Rev. Earle Steeves, delivered the charge to the minister, while the charge to the congregation was delivered by his brother, Rev. Addison E. Steeves, who by then was serving as minister of the First Church and Parish in Dedham (MA).

Rev. Steeves was deeply involved in denominational as well as community activities. Within Unitarian Universalism, he



served on the Clarence R. Skinner Award Committee, the New England Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Consolidation Committee, and on staff at Liberal Religious Youth (LRY) Week on Star Island. Within the Massachusetts Bay District, Rev. Steeves served on the Nominating Committee, the Fundraising Committee, as Director of the District's Churchmanship and Ministry Department, and as a ministerial advisor to the Universalist Church of Gloucester, MA.

In the community, he served on the Executive Committee of the American Red Cross (Newburyport Chapter) for twenty years; on the Board of Directors for the Children's Aid and Family Society for a decade; on the Board of Directors of Visiting Nursing of Newburyport; on the regional board of the Massachusetts Anti-Discrimination Committee; as President of the Merrimac Valley Bible Society; as President, Vice President, and Program Chair of the Greater Newburyport Clergy Association; and as founding member and on the Board of Directors of Link House, one of the first substance use treatment facilities in the North Shore.

During his long ministry in Newburyport, Rev. Steeves was recognized as a leader on justice issues, whether divesting the church's funds from South Africa in the 1980s—as a condemnation of apartheid—or his 1961 risky, public stand against discrimination and prejudices. For the latter, Rev. Steeves received the city's Nancy E. Peace Action Against Prejudice Award, and yet his devotion to justice was driven by his ideals. One parishioner recalls Rev. and Mrs. Steeves going out at night, spray paint in hand, to cover racial epithets that had been written on buildings.

Rev. Steeves carried out these aspect of his ministry, and all others, with humility. A former parishioner recalls, "I remember Bert once wryly telling me how he leads in the social action of the Church. He said, 'I watch how things are developing on any issue to see where the march is headed, and then I run around to the front to show my leadership.' Of course, that was untrue, but it is an excellent example of his endearing, self-deprecating humor."

BERTRAND H. STEEVES

continued

In 1994, Rev. Steeves retired from the Newburyport congregation and was given the title Minister Emeritus. Despite his retired status, and in part to create some distance so that the Newburyport congregation could create their new chapter, Rev. Steeves briefly served the Kearsarge UU Fellowship in New London, NH.

Bertrand is survived by his wife, Maxine (Hertel) Steeves; his children, Jonathan Steeves and his children, Stephanie, Samantha, and Justin and their mother Debra (Baikewicz) Steeves; his daughter Kathryn Steeves and her husband Stephen, and their children, Nathaniel and Jacob; and his son Christopher Steeves and husband Thomas Brewer.

Memorial service plans will be announced sometime in 2021.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the **First Religious Society Unitarian Universalist** where he served as minister from 1956-1994, and **Link House**, Newburyport, that he helped found.

ELIZABETH M STRONG

(1940-2021)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth “Liz” M. Strong, who died on March 20, 2021 at the age of 80.

Liz was born on June 17, 1940 in Cooperstown, NY to Ashley W. Strong and Marie E. Strong. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Syracuse University, NY in 1962. While attending Syracuse University, Liz met James F. Taylor, they married and started a family. They lived in Ohio briefly and moved to Pittsford, NY. In the mid-70s, Liz and James separated and divorced. In 1978, Liz graduated from Nazareth College of Rochester, NY with a Master of Science in Elementary Education. She served as a church schoolteacher for nineteen years before discerning her call to ministry.

Liz completed her work in preparation of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry from the Independent Study Program (ISP) in 1983. Afterward in 2000, she earned her Doctor of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL.

Rev. Dr. Strong was ordained to the Ministry of Religious Education by the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY on October 9, 1983 where she first served as a Director of Religious Education (1978-1983), and as a Minister of Religious Education (1983-1988). At the Rochester congregation, she provided guidance necessary to create a program of religious education that connected social responsibility with youth programming and the church school. She developed more comprehensive youth programs and teacher training programs. She then served the May Memorial UU Society, Syracuse, NY (1988-2001). From 2001 to 2008, she was a Religious Education Program Consultant for the Massachusetts Bay District. In 2008, she retired from her active ministry. Following retirement, she served the First Parish Church of Ashby UU, MA as a Consulting Minister (2008-2013). In recognition to her faithful service to the congregation and to the UUA, the Ashby congregation honored Rev. Dr. Strong as their minister emeritus on April 28, 2013.



Rev. Dr. Strong represented the Iroquois Chapter on the UUMA CENTER for Continuing Education (1985-1987). She was deeply involved with the denominational activities serving as President of the St. Lawrence UUMA/LREDA Iroquois Chapter (1986-1989). She was one of the Board of Trustees of Unirondack (1986-1989). She served the UU Peace Fellowship Adin Ballou Award Committee (1986-1989), and the UUMA Nominating Committee (1987-1989). She was Vice President (1987-1989)

and President (1989-1991) for LREDA. For the Meadville Lombard Theological school, she provided her services under various positions; and sat on the board (1989-1995), served as a Secretary (1993-1995), and as an adjunct faculty (1995 and 1998). Rev. Dr. Strong also served as President for the St. Lawrence Theological Foundation (1995-1996).

Rev. Dr. Strong worked on the UUA curriculum team. She wrote the Jr. high pamphlet “Can I Believe Anything I Want To?” Her Christmas Meditation appeared in the UUMA Autumn 1986 newsletter. She created numerous curricula, some of which are: an adult curriculum “Remember Universalism into Life” (1992); adolescent curriculum “Biblical Jesus”; and UU Identity for grades K-12. She developed curriculums that connected with the worshiping community. She created and taught the History of Universalism, Unitarianism, and Unitarian Universalism, and led several Religious Education workshops at the Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center, NJ. In 2019, at the Universalist Convocation held at Murray Grove, Liz presented a lecture on “Early Voices of Universalism”. She facilitated many programs on Death and Dying and wrote the book “The Larger Message” (2004).

As a religious educator, as a pastoral counselor, as a leading learner, Rev. Dr. Strong, developed her ministry of religious education for Unitarian Universalism providing guidance, resources, and knowledge necessary for a church to develop programs on church school, adult education, and youth/adult programming. She developed courses on interpersonal relationship development and community building. She also

ELIZABETH M STRONG

continued

founded the Universalist Heritage Foundation to preserve the Universalist Heritage in NH.

She was a recipient of multiple awards, some of which include: the 2010 Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education; Larry Axel Award for Excellence in Teaching; and NOW Woman of Achievement in Religion.

In the community, Liz served as a Board Member of the Planned Parenthood (1995-1998), and of the SEM (Southeast Ecumenical Ministries). She was a hospice Volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

Liz is survived by John Strong (brother), Barbara Strong Vertucci (twin sister), David Taylor (son) and spouse Lori, Shari Taylor-Lascano (daughter) and spouse Joe, Kathleen Taylor-Wallen (daughter) and spouse Joe, and Douglas

Taylor (son) and spouse Sidra. Also, grandchildren: Rowan, Mikela, Asher; Hannah and spouse Michael, Ashley; Aaron, John; Brin, Keenan, and Piran. And a multitude of cousins, nieces and nephews, and other relations.

A memorial service will occur live on Zoom on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Please contact Rev. Douglas Taylor at [*dtaylor@uubinghamton.org*](mailto:dtaylor@uubinghamton.org) for details.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the **Planned Parenthood**, or to the **Unitarian Universalist Association**.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Rev. Douglas Taylor, 19 Hodge Ave, Binghamton, NY 13901; or by email to [*dtaylor@uubinghamton.org*](mailto:dtaylor@uubinghamton.org).

LESLIE D. TAWNAMAIA

(1955-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Leslie “Laelia” D. Tawnamaia, who died on May 29, 2020, at the age of 65.

Laelia was born on January 10, 1955 in Berwyn, IL to Robert Lee Rucker and Charlene (Pauquette) Rucker. In 1986, she graduated from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA with a Bachelor of Science in Human Service. Following graduation, Laelia’s career included working in different settings, being self-employed for a time in a bookstore, gem, and jewelry store that she and her partner opened and managed, retail management, personal attendant care, administration/bookkeeping and working as a financial administrator for a small physician’s office. Later in 2011, she received her Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL.

Laelia served as an intern minister at the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, WI (Fall 2010-Spring 2011). She was granted preliminary fellowship in 2012, and ordained on August 18, 2013 by two congregations: The Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury (UUCStJ), VT and the Washington, Vermont UU Congregation, VT.

Rev. Tawnamaia served the UUCStJ under various positions: Worship Committee Chair and Worship Leader (2001-2009, 2009-2011); Buddha Dharma Study and Practice Group Facilitator (2002-2008); Board Clerk (2002-2004); Board Trustee (2003-2006); Finance Committee Member (2003-2007); Finance Committee Chair (2004-2008); RE Committee Member (2005); Bylaws Revision Taskforce (2005-2006); and as an Endowment Trustee (2005-2008). For the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, WI, she taught three sessions of RE classes on mental stress on health for 7 to 9 graders (2011). Furthermore, Rev. Tawnamaia regularly participated in the UUMA cluster meeting of Central Vermont (2011). Before and after serving the Wausau congregation, she led services around VT, from Bennington in the south to Derby Line on the Canadian border and many in between. Her sermons and services focused on Hiroshima, Doctrine of Discovery, animal rights and AIDS memorial. From 2011 to 2012, Rev. Tawnamaia served as a project collaborator and website coordinator for the



Peace and Unity Bridge (PUB): Cultivating and Understanding Friendship among Non-Muslims and Muslims (a project of Washington, Vermont UU Church).

Rev. Tawnamaia also volunteered for many community activities. She was co-founder of the Women’s Earth Centered Spirituality Practice Group(1980’s); and chaplain volunteer for the Fletcher Allen Hospital, VT (2003-2004). She served as an assistant for the Body Mind Research Classes at the Brookline High School, MA.

Laelia loved the music shared at UU services, including her own. It reminded her of growing up with her parent’s choir performances of Handel’s Messiah and other sacred pieces, and it was a rich way to bolster the sense of community she felt music engendered. She enjoyed gardening, reading, Reiki, mostly vegetarian and whole food nutrition, listening to music, singing/dancing, developmental psychology, yoga, journaling, women’s studies, rock/mineral/gemstone/crystal collecting, stone bead jewelry crafting, and herbology. Laelia’s other interests, included walking in nature especially with her beloved canine companions whom she gave a home to over the course of her life. She was an eco-feminist living a simple lifestyle with strong interest in sustainability and developing a green version of habitat.

Laelia learned later in life (1990’s) that her father was among the first American troops sent into Nagasaki after they were bombed. It helped her understand her father’s distance, and her lifelong compromised immune system.

Laelia is survived by her husband Greg; her brother Brian and his wife Linda; her aunt Donna Didier; as well as many of her cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the local animal welfare organization of one’s own choosing.

Her burial was private.

Notes of condolences may be sent to the family care of **Guare & Sons Funeral Home** at 30 School Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, or message may be left **here**.

ROBERT P. THRONE III

(1941-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Robert “Bob” Patterson Throne III, who died on November 4, 2020 at the age of 78.

Bob was born on December 15, 1941 in Syracuse, NY to Robert P. Throne and Esther C. Sheeley. He was raised in Fairmount, a semi-rural suburb of Syracuse, NY and was the eldest of three children. While in high school, he was active in lacrosse, student politics, model building, and had great interests in sports, and adventures. In 1959, he entered Auburn Community College, NY, then transferred to Geneseo State College, NY. From 1962 to 1965, he left his studies to work in the personnel department of the Carrier Air Conditioning Co., before moving on to become the supervisor of employee records at the General Electrics (GE). In 1967, he left GE to complete his bachelor’s degree.

Bob earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Syracuse University in 1967. Afterwards, he worked as a training manager at the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, LA (1967-1971), and as a manager of Agency Services at the Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company, CA (1971-1972). He functioned as a Manager of Agency Services at the Hartford Insurance Group, CT (1972-1982) before discerning his call to ministry. In 1985, Bob graduated with his Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School.

Rev. Throne was ordained on September 25, 1985 by the UU Church of Saco & Biddeford, ME where he carried out his first ministry (1985-1987). Prior to ordination, he was student minister and R.E. Director at the United First Parish Church, Quincy, MA. Following his ministry in Maine, he was called to serve the UU Church of the Restoration, PA (1987-1994). At the Restoration congregation, he took steps for more authentic diversity, initiated a coffee house, adult RE, and hired their first DRE. He also encouraged involvement with the wider denomination. Thereafter, he ministered at the UU Church of Loudoun, VA (1995-1997); and Thomas Paine UU Fellowship, PA (1996-1998). He retired on March



31, 1998. After retirement, Bob regularly did guest sermons at the Schuylkill UU, Pottsville, PA.

Rev. Throne’s denominational affiliation included serving as Vice-President for the Liberal Ministers of the Delaware Valley (LMDV) UUMA Chapter and as a coordinator of the African American UU Congress. From 1990 to 1994, he provided his services to the JPD Leadership Development Committee. In addition, he was a member of the Hartford Unitarian

Meeting house where he supported training for the pledge drive and created a social responsibility committee. He also initiated the Area Committee for Extension among the Hartford area UU congregations.

Bob was actively involved with the Boy Scout Committee at Bloomfield, CT and was Area Chairperson for the Francis Ellen Watkins Harper Celebration (1993). From 1990 to 1994, he served as Board of Trustees for the Matrix Research Inc. (nonprofit social research). Bob had immense love for people all of ages, friends, and family. For the Open Door Society of Connecticut, he chaired the statewide program of family support, and public education, headed an adoptive parents’ group for two years and was a speaker for Child and Family’s Adoption Program for five years.

In his spare time, Bob enjoyed open wheel auto racing, radio-controlled model airplanes, and liked organic gardening, camping, music, and politics. He loved writing and one of his pieces: “Hollow Souls: UU Polity and Congregational Polity” appeared in a UUMA Paper in 1994.

Bob is survived by his son, Daryn Roven, grandson Jonathan and granddaughter Sophia; his daughter Cambria Throne, granddaughter Maitlyn Smith and grandson Kareem Hill, Jr.; his son Anthony Throne; his brother Walt Throne and wife Jan; his sister Suzanne Britner and husband Neal; and by numerous nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, cousins, and dear friends. Bob was predeceased by his wife, Terry.

ROBERT P. THRONE III

continued

An online memorial service was hosted by McKinley Sims at Restoration in Philadelphia, on December 12. (Here is the YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/4gFgqOEShT4>)

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to:

- **Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration**
- Ride to Work Program, c/o West Philadelphia Financial Services Institution, 5200 Warren St. Philadelphia, PA 19131 (EIN 23-2855262)

- Tuba Skinny, the jazz band which brought so much joy to Bob in the last few years. (PayPal: tubaskinny@gmail.com; Venmo: @Tubaskinny)

Notes of condolence may be sent to Cambria Throne, 345 Oak Rd., Glenside, PA 19038 and to Daryn Roven (drov@mac.com).

GEORGE C.B. TOLLESON

(1931-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. George “Pete” C. B. Tolleson, who died on May 1, 2020, at the age of 88.

Pete was born on June 4, 1931 in Greensboro, NC to Louis Cree Tolleson and Mariel Buquo Tolleson. He graduated from Duke University, NC in 1953 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Anthropology, following which he served the army as a bandsman for two years (1954-1956) at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. In 1958, he received a Certificate in Occupational Therapy from Richmond Professional Institute, VA. Pete then worked as an Occupational Therapist at Greenville General Hospital, SC (1958-1960) and as a part-time Research Technician at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center (1962-1964) before discerning his call to ministry. In 1964, he earned his Master of Divinity from the Starr King School of Ministry, CA.

Rev. Tolleson entered preliminary fellowship in 1963. He was ordained by the Unitarian Church at Charleston, SC on November 15, 1964 where he carried out his first ministry from 1964 to 1969. Later in 1969, he accepted a call from the UU Church of Arlington, VA and ministered there until 1972. Subsequently, he served in parish ministry at two congregations: the UU Congregation of Greenville, NC (1978-1983) and the UU Fellowship Hendersonville, NC (1984-1985). After many years of distinguished service to Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Tolleson retired on July 31, 1988; however, he continued his service of pastoral counseling and officiating weddings until 2011.

On behalf of the denomination, Rev. Tolleson served as a board member of the Thomas Jefferson District (1968-1969). He also served the Summer Institutes Sites Committee, T. J. District (1969). Likewise, he sang in the church choirs for several years.

In addition to his ministerial and denominational work, Pete was Percussionist with Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, VA and Troop Information and Education Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) for the unit, while in the Army. He had active



involvement with the YMCA and South Carolina Poetic Society. He worked as a teacher at Burgundy Farm County Day School, VA for six years (1972-1978). He was manager of the print shop at Warren Wilson College, NC (1984-1996) where many students who did their work-study found him to be both entertaining and inspiring. Pete’s article, “Funeral Service for Carl Sandburg,” was published by *Lincoln Herald*, Sandburg commemorative issue, Spring, 1968, Vol. 70, #1.

Pete had a real creative bent and his interest profile varied significantly from the usual pattern. He was a person with a wide range of abilities and talents in song and instrumental music (chorus, band, Greenville Symphony), crafts (wood and metal), photography, drama, and gym work. He taught crafts at Boy Scouts and church related camps; did medical photography in the hospital while working as an occupational therapist, and enjoyed sculpture, painting, inventive technology, cycling, reading, italic penmanship and calligraphy during his free time.

Pete’s niece Raelin had these thoughts to share of her uncle:

“Everywhere Pete worked people loved him - his affectionate and compassionate nature, his good cheer, and his strong work ethic were always inspirational to the people whose lives he touched. He will be remembered by so many!”

Pete is survived by his husband Ronnie “Ron” T. Marable, daughter Robin Tolleson, sister Martha Hansen, niece Raelin Hansen, nephew Lou Hansen, as well as his granddaughters: Jeannette Tolleson and Donia Zweig.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one’s own choosing.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Ron T. Marable at: 114 Elizabeth St, Henderson, NC 27536; or to sister Martha Hansen at: 12185 Clipper Dr. Health Center, Rm 12, Lake Ridge, VA 22192; or to his niece Raelin Hansen at: 1 Battle Sq, Apt 803, Asheville, NC 28801.

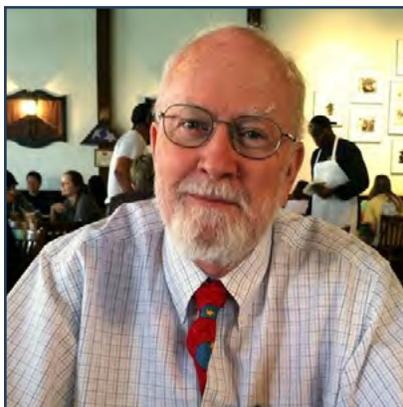
WILLIAM WELCH

(1946-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. William “Bill” Welch, who died on November 15, 2020 at the age of 74.

Bill was born in Albuquerque, NM on February 19, 1946 to the late William and Rachel Welch. He graduated high school in Tullahoma, TN and attended the Middle Tennessee State University. In 1968, he received his Bachelor of Science with a major in History and minor in Political Science and Economics. Thereafter, he worked as an Urban Planner at the Tennessee State Planning Office (1969-1974). While working there, Bill developed an interest in photography, became proficient, and changed his career to become a photojournalist. He then worked as a Staff Photographer at a small daily newspaper in Owensboro, KY (1975-1976) and with a morning daily in Nashville. He taught photography at the junior college level at the Nashville State Technical Institute. During this time, he began attending to his personal growth, won several awards from the Southern Short Course in News Photography, Atlanta Press Photographers Seminar, Associated Press and United Press International. He organized and coordinated two national education seminars in Nashville for members of the National Press Photographers Association. He also became involved in several community issues; co-chaired two fund raisers, the Nashville YWCA’s Shelter and Domestic Violence Program that netted about \$32,000 over the two years. He was very active with a shelter for battered women in Nashville, TN fulfilling various volunteer assignments. He eventually left journalism finding it too cynical and detached from the rest of life and community. In 1990, Bill graduated from Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN with his Master of Divinity.

Rev. Welch was ordained on June 10, 1990 by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, TN where he served as an Interim Director of Religious Education (1993-1996). He then served as an interim associate minister at the Neighborhood UU Church, Pasadena, CA (1996-1997).



Following his ministry at Pasadena, he served the UU Congregation of Fairfax, Oakton, VA as Minister of Religious Education (1997-1999) and later as Minister for Programs (1999-2009). From 2009 to 2010, Rev. Welch ministered at the UUs of Clearwater, FL and retired on February 28, 2011.

Beyond his parish ministry, Rev. Welch was a member of UU Ministers Association. He worked for many social justice projects throughout his life. He

provided his services to the YWCA Shelter and Domestic Violence Program, Nashville, TN under various positions: as a Crisis Call Counselor (1980-1982); as a Program Emphasis Committee member (1982-1985); and as a Co-chair for the annual fundraiser (1983-1984). Furthermore, he was one of the Board Members of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, Nashville, TN (1985).

Bill had passion for horticulture, especially herbaceous perennials, old species, and varieties of roses. During his leisure time he enjoyed music, the visual arts, movies, and television, especially mysteries and science fiction.

Bill is survived by his sister Janet Beasley, his nephew Tarry Beasley IV, and his nieces Nina Wildes and Janet Lee McDowell. He was preceded in death by his sister Gwen McNeese and his nephew David (Skip) McNeese.

A celebration of Bill’s life is being planned for the near future.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the **Thistle Farms** or you may support Thistle Farms by shopping at their online store of products made from survivor artisans.

Condolences may be sent to the Nina Wildes at njwildes@gmail.com.

JUDITH CLYMER WELLES

(1943-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Judith C. Welles who died on September 28, 2020 at the age of 77.

Judith Clymer Welles was born in Boston on September 4, 1943 to Eileen and Russell Clymer. She was the middle child, between two brothers, who grew up in Wellesley Hills, MA. Judy was also a third-generation New England Unitarian. Her childhood in Unitarian Sunday School gave way to her active involvement in the New England Regional Liberal Religious Youth (LRY) and as an adult, Judy referred to her faith as “an unwavering anchor line” that ran through her life.

After Judy earned a B.A. from Smith College in 1965, she found work at Massachusetts General Hospital as a medical transcriptionist, which led to a job at Stanford Medical Center. While in Palo Alto, she met and married her first husband, Andrew Gustafson. The couple moved to Ventura (CA), where Judy devoted herself to their two young daughters, Anne and Katy.

In Ventura, Judy was hired as the director of a new Planned Parenthood chapter. By the time she was invited to open a second clinic, Judy decided to take a year to discern the next stage in her vocational path. Since her family’s arrival in Ventura, Judy had been throwing herself into lay leadership at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, and developed a close relationship with its minister, Rev. Frederica Leigh. By the early 80s, the notion of ministry had presented itself to Judy—but for years, she wrestled with the competing forces of that call and the needs of her two young daughters.

Eventually, the call prevailed. “I cannot think of a greater privilege than making it my life’s work to help people align themselves for the good of the universe,” Judy wrote, early in her ministerial formation.



In 1990, Judy entered Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. On the day that she was granted ministerial Fellowship, she met Duane Fickeisen, a first-year student at Starr King. They married in 1994.

In 1995, Judy was called to part-time ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, which had been lay-led for several years. That congregation ordained her on October 22, 1995.

In 1997, the Revs. Welles and Fickeisen accepted a new startup co-ministry with Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley, in Carlisle, PA—which became a called ministry in 2001. Judy and Duane helped the congregation grow into a thriving congregation until their 2011 retirement, when they were named Ministers Emerita and Emeritus.

Rev. Welles’ service to Unitarian Universalism included serving on the Board of Starr King School for the Ministry, including as Chair of its Development Committee; as President of the Joseph Priestley chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association; on the Western Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy; as co-coordinator of the Unitarian Universalist Clergy Couples Group; and as President—among other roles—of the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association. In her work with the latter, Rev. Welles helped launch UURMaPA’s Rainbow History Project to collect and archive the experiences of Unitarian Universalism (and particularly of clergy) as LGBTQIA+ rights expanded following the Stonewall Uprising.

In 2011, retirement from active ministry brought Judy and Duane to Portland, Oregon, where they became members of First Unitarian Church. Judy’s community involvement ranged from a breakfast book group and a weekly walking group to the knitting guild, Puddletown, that she helped found. She was also on the steering committee for Let’s Talk Climate, an organization to promote public conversations about aspects of climate change.

JUDITH CLYMER WELLES

continued

Judy cherished her nine grandchildren, reveling in being their “Nonna.” As her health declined, she expressed her biggest regret that she would not be around to see them grow up to adulthood. Nevertheless, she exercised agency as her life came to a close. Even on her last day of life, she was writing letters to encourage voting, in Pennsylvania, in the Presidential election in which she herself would not live to participate.

With her body slowing down and after the opportunity for final farewells with family and friends, Judy decided to exercise Oregon’s death with dignity option to hasten her death. She believed the process of dying would be “exciting, gorgeous, and unexpected,” affirming that “there’s nothing to be afraid of here.” She died peacefully and intentionally on Sept. 28, 2020, surrounded by loved ones.

Judy brought her love of life into her relationships, her work, and her engagement in the world. “I have so much love in my life,” she affirmed, “love going both directions: from me and to me; love moving through me.” She grasped all opportunities for wonder, growth, change, and joy. As a skilled knitter and gardener, she brought beauty into the world.

When asked, “How do you want to be remembered?” Judy’s first response was, “I want people to remember how much I liked to have fun; my enjoyment of life.”

Judy is survived by her spouse, the Rev. Duane Fickeisen; by daughters Anne Gustafson (Marcel/Ford) and Katy Wells (Frank/Owen and Aengus); by stepchildren Michelle Vo (/ Viking and Norway), Robert Fickeisen (Amanda/Odin and Opal), and Sarah Lowry (Brian/Utah and Juniper); by nine beloved grandchildren (named above); by brothers Jack Clymer (Di) and Nat Clymer; by four nieces; and by sisters-in-law Dana Fickeisen (Karen Frank) and Janice Millward. Also grieving her death is her former husband, Andrew Gustafson (Judith). She was predeceased by her parents, Russell and Eileen “Teeny” Clymer.

An online memorial service was broadcast from the Eliot Chapel of the First Unitarian Church, Portland (OR) on October 10, 2020.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Judy Welles Memorial Endowment, **Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley** (PO Box 207, Boiling Springs, PA 17007) or to **Our Children’s Trust** (PO Box 5181, Eugene, OR 97405).

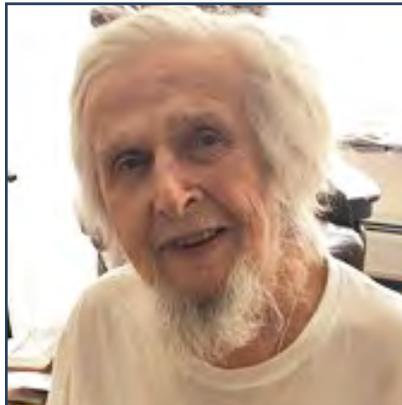
Condolences may be sent to the Rev. Duane Fickeisen, 2360 SE 58th Ave, Portland, OR 97215 or to dfickeisen@uuma.org.

RICHARD M. WOODMAN

(1930-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Richard M. Woodman, who died on May 30, 2020, at the age of 90.

Richard was born on April 20, 1930 in Biddeford, ME to Lloyd G. and Edna R. (Ramberg) Woodman. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 1952, and Bachelor of Divinity in 1954, both from the St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.



Rev. Woodman was ordained by the First Universalist Church, Binghamton, NY (now the UU Congregation of Binghamton, NY) on November 28, 1954 where he carried out his ministry from 1954 to 1963. Later in 1963, he accepted a call from the UU Church of Tampa, FL and ministered there for five years. He then served in parish ministries at the UU Congregation in Andover, MA (1968-1973) and the UU Church of Reading, MA (1973-1983). Ever since 1983, Rev. Woodman was drawn to interim ministry and served as an interim minister at the following congregations: Davies UU Congregation, MD (1983-1984); Murray UU Church, MA (1984-1985); Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, NJ (1985-1987); the UU Church of Manchester, NH (1987-1988); the UU Congregation of Binghamton, NY (1988-1989); All Souls UU Church, NY (1989-1990); the UU Society of Greater Springfield, MA (1990-1992); the First Congregational Society Unitarian, Chelmsford, MA (1992-1993); and the UU Society of Bangor, ME (1994-1995). On June 1, 1996, he retired from his ministry.

On behalf of the denomination, Rev. Woodman was National Vice President for the Universalist Youth Fellowship (1951-1952); and an assistant manager (1954) and manager (1955-1960) for the NY State Convention of Universalist, Unirondack. He served the UUA Fellowship Committee (1961-1963) and the UCA-AUA Commission on Federal Union. For the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, he functioned as a National Vice President (1961-1963) and as a treasurer (1965-1967). He also was treasurer for the Universalist Historical Society (1969-1975) and a counselor to the UU students at Harvard Divinity School (1974-1980). Furthermore, Rev. Woodman provided his services to the General Assembly Planning Committee (1975-1983) and chaired the committee (1979-1981). He was

treasurer of the Unitarian Universalist Historical Society (1979-1985) and member of the UU Pastoral Counseling Service Board (1981-1983).

In addition to his denominational work, Richard was affiliated with several community organizations. He was board member of the Planned Parenthood Center, Binghamton, NY (1958-1963) and the Family Service Association of America, NY (Public Issues Committee of Nat'l Organization, 1962-1964).

In Tampa, FL he served the Human Relations Council (1963-1968); Tampa Urban League Board (1964-1968); NAACP Board (1964-1968); ACLU Chapter (1965-1968); Mental Health Association Board (1964-1968); United Cerebral Palsy Center Board (1963-1968); and the Tampa Memorial Society (1965-1968). Likewise, in Andover, MA, he passionately rendered his services to the Teen-Adult Coordinating Council (1970-1973); Advisory Council of the Greater Lawrence Ecumenical Area Ministry (1971-1974); Andover Peace Action Council (1969-1974); and the 5th Congregational District Citizens Caucus (1972). Similarly, in Reading, MA he served the Reading Clergy Association (1973-1983); and Reading Antiquarian Society (1975-1983).

In his spare time, Richard liked stamp collecting, carpentry, woodworking (furniture making and refinishing), gardening, campaigning, and home computers. He enjoyed history, genealogy, storytelling and jokes, and immensely loved his Boston Terriers: Snuffy and PandD.

Richard is survived by his son Douglas L. Woodman (Kathy); his daughters, Linda (Avram), and Marilyn Woodman (Raphael Hartzog); his step-daughter Janet Rosado (Darrell Wheeler), and step son Jeff Rosado (Caramia); his ten grandchildren, and five great-granddaughters; his sisters, Marjorie Miller, and Joan Bishop; as well as his several cousins, nephews and great nieces. He was predeceased by his wife Pauline Rosado Woodman, and by the mother of his children, Margaret Blair Woodman.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to VNA/hospice of Cooley Dickinson Hospital, PO Box 329, Northampton, MA 01061-0329.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Marilyn Woodman at mjwoodman@comcast.net.